









# SERVING HUNTERDON ONE HUNDRED YEARS

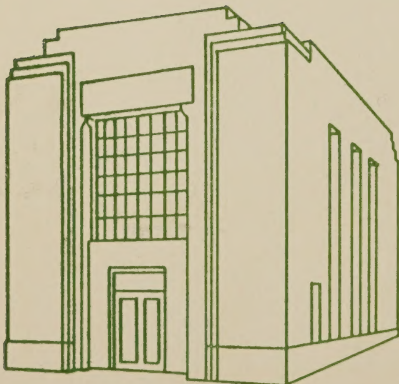


1854-1954

A PICTURE STORY OF OUR COUNTY  
AND HUNTERDON'S FIRST BANK



FLEMINGTON OFFICE



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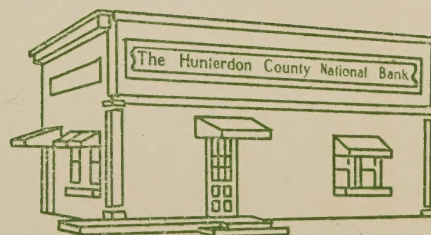
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LAMBERTVILLE OFFICE



WHITEHOUSE OFFICE



## Serving Hunterdon One Hundred Years



# Serving Hunterdon One Hundred Years

1854-1954

A picture story of our county  
and Hunterdon's first bank




1955

Published by  
THE HUNTERDON COUNTY NATIONAL BANK  
of Flemington, N. J.

Offices at  
Flemington, High Bridge, Lambertville and Whitehouse

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OF FLEMINGTON, N. J.

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## FOREWORD

The Board of Directors of the Hunterdon County National Bank decided that an appropriate means of commemorating the 100th Anniversary of "*Hunterdon's First Bank*" would be to publish a pictorial history of the County of Hunterdon in the 100 years since 1854. The result is a volume unique in concept and certainly different from the usual commercial commemorative publication.

The Directors hope that this volume will have permanent value for all citizens of Hunterdon, which includes hundreds of families whose patronage of "*The Old Bank*" goes back many generations.

Publication of this book has been delayed past the actual anniversary date because of the research involved and the desire to uncover and select pictures that will best depict our county's social and economic progress in the past century.

This book contains no chapters or chapter headings, although it follows a definite plan. The opening pages deal exclusively and quite briefly with the bank's history. Next follow in order, illustrations showing residences and social life of Hunterdon as it changed through the years. The remaining general topics which are illustrated, are in their order: Religion, Education, Government, Transportation, Public Catastrophies, the Lindbergh Kidnaping, War Effort, Agriculture, Industry, Retail Trade and Recreation.

In 1854, when "*Hunterdon's First Bank*" opened its doors to the public, photography was in its infancy. It was not until the latter part of the last century that photographers established themselves in our rural communities. There were one or two, but they confined themselves mostly to portraiture. Amateur photography has been a development of recent years. Moreover, only a few persons seem to have been interested in preserving pictures showing the development of our county. We are indeed indebted to those persons who have made available so many of the photographs which appear in this book.

A pictorial presentation, for the reasons stated, is of necessity spotty as to periods, as to locations and as to phases of social, political and economic life of the years since 1854. Certainly there has been no more dynamic era in the history of the world. So far as our own county is concerned, no single institution has had a greater or more widespread influence in bringing about the changes that are by contrast so noticeable, than the Hunterdon County National Bank. We hope that this anniversary volume will serve not only to commemorate a hundred years of service by a single institution, but will rekindle an interest in the history of our county. If it will also create and renew the determination to go forward and to build on the firm foundation which the men and women of earlier generations erected, it will indeed have been a worthwhile investment.

1854

HUNTERDON'S



FIRST BANK

1954

THE HUNTERDON COUNTY NATIONAL BANK

### History

"TUES. 30—A cloudy dull forenoon; Planted a patch of corn in the orchard. Evening rain, and when we shall get through it is hard to say. We have about six acres to plough yet and it is entirely too wet and this rain will not make it any dryer."

Other than the above handwritten record from the diary of James H. Blackwell, who owned and operated a farm near what is now Flemington Junction, Hunterdon County, we have little by way of a record of what happened on May 30, 1854 except that on that day "the Hunterdon Bank" opened to receive deposits.

The list of the charter shareholders is available in the Certificate of Association in the Hunterdon County Clerk's Office. "Hunterdon Democrat" of April 5, 1854 carries this item:

A NEW BANK.—A number of gentlemen in this place and vicinity, are about organizing a new

Bank under the General Banking Law, with a capital of \$100,000, to be located at Flemington. The stockholders have had a meeting and elected the Hon. Isaac G. Farlee, as President, Wm. Emery, our County Clerk, Cashier, and a Board of Directors, comprising some of the best businessmen in the County. Under the direction of such men, the public have a guaranty that the business of the Bank will be confined to a proper and legitimate channel; and therefore cannot fail to become a general benefit, as well as a source of profit to the Stockholders.

The next reference to the bank appeared May 24, 1854. It follows:

This Bank by pledging the most ample security to the bill holder, will obviate the general objection hitherto existing in this County to Banking institutions. We learn that as soon as plates can be engraved and bills printed, it will be in operation. The Hunterdon County Bank will be ready for business about the thirtieth of this month. The practical business men concerned in this Bank are a sufficient guaranty that it will be a safe place of deposit.

Then on September 20, 1854 we learn, also from Hunterdon



Charles Bartles

Democrat, that the bank was increasing local trade, that issue reporting:

Since the Hunterdon County Bank has been in operation, Flemington has considerably increased in business matters. . . .

So we know that it was a cloudy day that greeted the opening of "Hunterdon's First Bank" and we know that in four months the bank was already stimulating local trade by providing "a safe place of deposit" and issuing currency which afforded a medium of exchange in which the people could have confidence.

QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF THE HUNTERDON COUNTY BANK, rendered to the secretary of the State of New Jersey, on the Second day of January, A. D. eighteen hundred and sixty, pursuant to the provisions of the act to punish frauds on the incorporated Banks in this State, and for the better regulation of said Bank, which said supplement was approved March 14th 1856.

Specie on hand actually in possession } of and property of the Bank, }	\$ 15,517 25
Balance Due from other B'ks & Co's.	17,164 82
Bank Notes & Checks of other B'ks & Co's.	4,375 05
Notes and Bills Discounted Good,	173,142 03
" " " Doubtful,	11,490 97
Newark City Bonds,	10,000 00
Furniture, Plates, &c.,	1,160 00

\$231,851 89

Capital,	\$100,000 00
Notes, and Bills in circulation,	84,052 00
Due Dividends unpaid,	494 00
" other Banks,	3,865 25
" Depositors,	38,519 56
Surplus,	4,920 34

\$231,851 89

STATE of NEW JERSEY }  
HUNTERDON COUNTY, ss. } Personally appeared  
before the subscriber one of the Masters of the Court of  
Chancery of New Jersey, Charles Bartles President, and  
Charles Tomlinson, Cashier of the Hunterdon County  
Bank, who being severally sworn did depose and say that  
the foregoing statement is true to the best of their know-  
ledge and belief.

C. BARTLES, President. C. TOMLINSON, Cashier,  
Sworn and Subscribed before me January 24 A. D. 1860.  
A. V. VAN FLEET, Master in Chancery of New Jersey.

The success of the Hunterdon Bank was due to two things—a definite need—and honest, capable management.

Up until 1842, imprisonment

for debt was legal and the jail at Flemington was often filled with debtors. This did not improve the position of creditors, for a man languishing in jail was only getting poorer.

Storekeepers in the depression years during the late 1830's and early 1840's had tried to unite to demand either cash or produce when "store goods" were taken away, but the Hunterdon Democrat reported that the experiment made the town "as dead as a mackerel."

Currency issued by a dozen banks had served as a medium of exchange in the second quarter of the century. But these institutions were all outside the county and their money could be easily counterfeited. Moreover, a number of them had insufficient funds to redeem the notes they issued. This did not build confidence in banks generally.

Then, too, there had been a sad experience near at hand. Charters given the New Hope-Delaware Bridge Company by the States of Pennsylvania and New Jersey allowed the corporation to serve as a bank. It exercised this privilege at New Hope, Pennsylvania, between 1825 and 1828, when its notes became worthless. New York financiers who owned the bridge were sufficiently powerful to prevent a bank from starting in Lambertville. Bridge tolls rose in the boom days of the early 1830's and confidence was restored, but

## THE HUNTERDON COUNTY NATIONAL BANK

in 1837, following the national panic, the bridge company, like nearly all banks, suspended specie payment. The company might have survived except for a flood which washed away its chief asset, the bridge, in 1841.



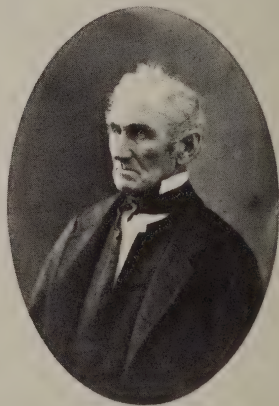
John C. Hopewell

It had issued \$150,000 in notes which seven years later, in 1848, were worth only thirty cents on the dollar. In 1853 the company forfeited its banking rights and lost its bridge as well. This unfortunate experience made the task of the organizers of the Hunterdon Bank not an easy one.

Space here does not permit listing in full all of the original eighty-three shareholders of the Hunterdon Bank, whose Certificate of Association was filed May 1, 1854 in the County Clerk's Office. First subscriber was George A. Allen, of Flemington, for five hundred shares and the second was Isaac G. Farlee, also of Flemington for 200 shares. Andrew G. M.

Prevost, of Frenchtown, also subscribed for 200 shares, as did Miller Kline, of Klinesville. The fifth subscriber was William Emery, of Flemington, for 100 shares. The eighty-two men and one woman who constituted the charter stockholders, represented every community of importance in Hunterdon County.

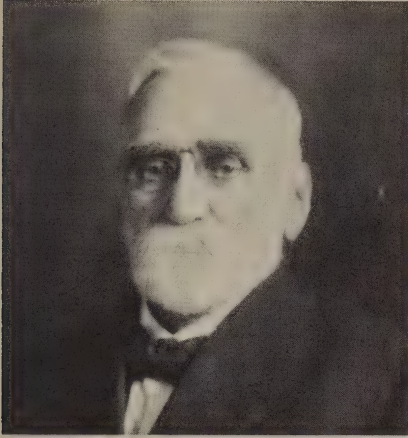
"Hunterdon's First Bank" was located in the basement of the Reading mansion, then a comparatively new residence. The building stands at 119 Main Street and was acquired by members of the Large family in 1870. It is still owned by that family, having been purchased by former Senator George H. Large in 1900 from his sister and is now the residence of Mr. Edwin K. Large, one of the present directors of the bank. The original vault is still intact in a



Judiah Higgins

rear basement room. Its door had a unique locking device—an iron bar was dropped through the

SERVING HUNTERDON ONE HUNDRED YEARS



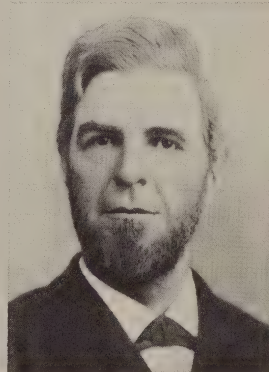
Jonathan Higgins

floor from the parlor above. Only here could it be released, by lifting a small trapdoor in the floor, under the carpet. This vault and former banking quarters have been used by the bank's president, George K. Large, as an adjunct of his law office for filing and storing purposes for many years.

Isaac G. Farlee was a public spirited citizen whose energies had been often devoted to movements which would promote the development of Hunterdon County and the protection of her citizens and their property. Hence he was the logical choice as the first president. William Emery was likewise well qualified to be the first cashier.

Farlee's biographer refers to him as a man of "sterling and uncompromising integrity." He had enjoyed many honors from his fellow citizens, having served as county clerk, member of Con-

gress and State Senator. Death claimed Mr. Farlee on January 12, 1855, less than a year after the bank opened for business. His successor was Captain George A. Allen, a native of Connecticut who had come to Hunterdon as a teacher and had become a lawyer. He was the father of the late Major Edward B. Allen, Alexander B. Allen, Dr. Charles Allen and William Allen. Captain Allen served until 1858, by which time the bank had grown so that it needed a teller, J. T. Conover, in addition to Cashier Emery. Among the early directors were Charles Bartles, William P. Emery, Judiah Higgins, John L. Jones, John C. Hopewell, Miller Kline, Runkle Rea and Andrew Van-Syckle. These men were responsible for establishing "The Hunterdon Bank" on a solid foundation—building a reputation for



John A. Bullock

integrity, fairness and sound management that set the policy which has been closely adhered

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to by their successors through the century.

In 1858 Charles Bartles, a native of Oldwick, graduate of Union College and man of high attainment in his profession as a lawyer, succeeded to the presidency. He served the bank longer as president than any other person except the present incumbent, George K. Large. It was in the quarter-century under Mr. Bartles that the bank took steady strides through the difficult period of the Civil War and Reconstruction. While he had many other interests, including the construction of Flemington's first railroad, which connected with the Belvidere Railroad at Lambertville, as well as timber and coal lands in Pennsylvania, Mr. Bartles acknowledged success of the bank in his home community as of paramount importance.

Mr. Bartles and his fellow directors did not delay long in applying for a Federal charter after passage of the National Banking Act of 1864. On February 14, 1865, they moved to convert the institution to a National Bank and sent an emissary to Washington to make the necessary arrangements. On April 25 assets were officially transferred to "The Hunterdon County National Bank of Flemington," a title which continues to this day.

One of the most active and progressive of the early directors was John C. Hopewell. He and Mr. Bartles were associated in



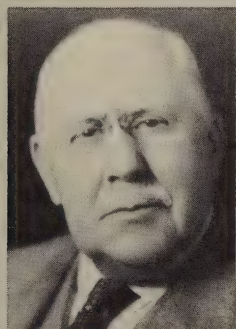
George K. Large

many business and civic projects. Either or both helped organize Flemington Water Company, to give the community a safe supply of water and protection against fire. They built a plant for manufacturing illuminating gas; they were organizers of Flemington Fire Department; they planted the first shade trees along the streets and laid the first flagstone sidewalks; they organized the Flemington Lyceum to bring entertainment to the community and encourage home talent performances.

After Mr. Bartles' passing in 1883, Mr. John C. Hopewell succeeded to the presidency, continuing until his death in 1888. Mr. Hopewell built the Hunterdon County Bank Building, patterning the structure after Ford's Theatre in Washington, where Lincoln was shot. In the interval the bank had outgrown its limited

## SERVING HUNTERDON ONE HUNDRED YEARS

basement quarters in the Reading mansion and had been moved to a substantial brick building farther north at what is now 57 Main Street, since known as the Allen Building. Soon after the Hopewell Building was completed the bank moved southward and across the street to its present location.



Albert H. Rittenhouse

Mr. Hopewell's leadership and many benefactions were acknowledged by fellow citizens later in life, when they presented him with a suitably engraved silver pitcher at a public dinner. He was succeeded by Judiah Higgins, who was also removed by death only two years later. For the next three years John W. Priestly was president.

The aforementioned Judiah Higgins had been a charter stockholder. His son, Jonathan, succeeded to the presidency in 1893 and held that office until 1916. It is interesting to note that Jonathan's son, Judiah, who had earlier been associated with the bank as clerk and teller, succeeded his father as a director in

1917 and continued in that capacity for 35 years.

John A. Bullock, who had been the bank's counsel since 1892 and a director since 1894, succeeded



William J. Kinnamon

to the presidency in 1916 and continued until his death in 1929, when the board elected former Judge George K. Large to that position. Mr. Large is now in his 26th year of service in that capacity and has seen the total assets of the bank grow from less than \$4,000,000 to over \$18,500,000. The period brought a great depression which closed or forced reorganization of hundreds of banks—but not the Hunterdon County National. It was one of the few banks in the country that needed no help from the Government in the way of the purchase of preferred stock by the Government. In fact, its president, Mr. Large, was requested to serve as the member of the National Credit Association representing Hunterdon County in a five-county group the function of which was to administer a fund created to

## THE HUNTERDON COUNTY NATIONAL BANK

loan money to banks in need of assistance. The "Old Bank" needed no help of that kind, evidenced by the fact that its President served as a member of the Association to help others.

At this point attention should be given to the managers of the "Old Bank"—those who devoted full time to the business and had their fingers on the pulse of the financial status of the bank and the community. In 1860 Charles Tomlinson succeeded William Emery as cashier, continuing until 1865 when he became editor and publisher of Hunterdon County Democrat. Two others served in the interval. But the executive officer of the bank

retiring in 1935 after setting up a notable record for sound and progressive banking practices.

William J. Kinnamon, a native of Easton, Maryland, and a graduate of the College of Business Administration, University of Maryland, became cashier in 1935 as successor to Mr. Rittenhouse. Later he was elected executive vice-president and he is ably assisted by Charles W. Fouts, as cashier, and Assistant Cashiers John L. Gilheany, Willard R. Young and R. Bergen Van Doren.

Mr. Kinnamon was elected President of the New Jersey Bankers Association in April 1955 for one year.

In 1937 the Standard Oil Company (New Jersey), confronted with unsatisfactory taxation of its intangible personal property elsewhere, engaged counsel to make an exhaustive study of all of the counties of the State of New Jersey with a view of moving to the most stable and appropriate place its statutory office. As a result of this study it selected Hunterdon County as the most satisfactory, and Flemington as the municipality, and requested George K. Large, president of the Bank, to act as its statutory agent. Applying the law correctly, Flemington's tax rate the first year dropped from \$3.97 to 62 cents. Finding that the experience of the Standard Oil Company was satisfactory in Flemington, one hundred and forty other New Jersey corporations (some of the world's larg-



Flemington Bank Building

who served longer than any other and made a great contribution to the bank's success was Albert H. Rittenhouse, who succeeded to that position in 1895 and continued for 40 years,

## SERVING HUNTERDON ONE HUNDRED YEARS

est) moved their statutory offices to Flemington and requested Judge Large to act as their statutory agent in New Jersey. He found his law office and the original bank headquarters in the Large residence inadequate for the corporate needs, so he rented the bank's southerly room as an annex to his law office as this provided adequate accommodations. The ratables of the corporations added some \$265,000,000 to Flemington's \$3,000,000 ratables and resulted at the peak in the payment of approximately 96% of the Borough taxes and 90% of the County taxes, which was beneficial to the bank and to its many customers.



Whitehouse Bank Building

Judge Large engaged the bank to do the work involved in keeping the stock records of these corporations, which affords the Hunterdon County National an opportunity to add materially to its earning capacity and thus to its stability. This has placed upon the bank the responsibility of storing and keeping up to date the stock ledgers. It has also

involved expanding the Trust Department so that it has employed upwards of twenty-five people in this corporate work alone. While the tax law was



High Bridge Bank Building

changed some years ago, a great many of these large corporations are still domiciled in Flemington and their stock records are still kept by the bank at 92 Main Street.

In 1947 the officers of the Hunterdon County National Bank were requested by local business men of Whitehouse Station to provide banking facilities in that area, since it had lost its bank under unfortunate circumstances in 1931. After complying with the National Banking Act by increasing its capital stock from \$100,000 to \$500,000, in order to qualify for authority to have branches, it opened a branch office at Whitehouse Station in what was formerly the Stephen K. Large office building. This had the distinction of being the smallest branch banking office in New Jersey. It became in-

## THE HUNTERDON COUNTY NATIONAL BANK

adequate to serve its growing needs, and the Whitehouse Station office was moved to its present location in 1952.

In 1948 Mr. Large, with the approval and cooperation of the directors and officers of the First National Bank of High Bridge, acquired the stock of that institution with a view of turning over its assets at cost to the Hunterdon County National, which assumed its liabilities and petitioned the Comptroller of the Currency for authority to open a branch at High Bridge, which authority was readily granted by the Comptroller.

The Hunterdon County National's fourth office, which is located in Lambertville, came as a result of circumstances similar to those which existed in High Bridge. With the approval of the directors and officers of the Amwell National Bank, Mr. Large acquired stock of that

it assuming the liabilities of the Amwell National Bank. The Lambertville office was opened in that city with the approval of the Comptroller of the Currency in 1949.

With offices in four of Hunterdon's important centers of population and trade, the Hunterdon County National is able to give to all these communities and the vast adjoining areas, a quality of service comparable with any large city institution.

The "Old Bank" through the years has adhered first and foremost to the policy of providing "a safe place of deposit," to use the words of the founders. The ratio of the bank's own assets to deposits and to loans has been kept well above the accepted margins of safety. While it is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, its own capital funds of over one and a half million dollars render that protection quite unnecessary.

Stress has always been placed on the financial needs of customers, particularly of farmers, tradesmen and manufacturers. "Hunterdon's First Bank" under the guidance of William J. Kinnamon, executive vice-president, has taken a position of leadership in encouraging up-to-date agricultural practices and has financed a number of demonstration projects to improve seeding practices, to improve egg quality and to encourage reforestation.



Lambertville Bank Building

bank and turned over to the Hunterdon County National the assets of that institution at cost,

## SERVING HUNTERDON ONE HUNDRED YEARS

About seventy-five people constitute the staff of this important financial institution — most of them trained for their various functions and skilled in their respective fields of endeavor.

\$600 a year to the cashier, \$200 to the teller and \$300 to the president.

Lending practices have been greatly altered, in keeping with the needs of customers for up-



Executive Staff: John L. Gilheany, assistant cashier; Charles W. Fouts, cashier; Willard R. Young and R. Bergen VanDoren, assistant cashiers.

It is hard to picture the changes that have come about since the Civil War days when the total payroll consisted of

to-date machinery, more productive livestock and poultry, seasonal needs for farm supplies and demands for labor-saving



Office Managers: Frank S. Scheetz, Lambertville; Margaret Apgar, High Bridge, and Ernest Adams, Whitehouse.

# THE HUNTERDON COUNTY NATIONAL BANK

devices and quicker, cheaper transportation between farm and market. "Hunterdon's First Bank" has pioneered in its territory in making available time-payment loans both for capital improvements and for household and personal expenditures as well. These newer developments in banking have greatly increased the scope of usefulness of the bank to its clientele and have tended to increase the

friendship and mutual respect that exists between the customers and the bank's officers.

Some conception of the growth of "Hunterdon's First Bank" which has kept it "FIRST" not only in point of years, but in total deposits, assets, loans and number of customers in the Hunterdon County territory can be received by examining the following figures:

## THE HUNTERDON COUNTY NATIONAL BANK OF FLEMINGTON STATEMENTS OF CONDITION AT THE YEAR'S END

RESOURCES	1920	1930	1940	1950	1954
Cash and Due From Banks	\$ 320,525	\$ 463,345	\$ 509,268	\$ 2,087,143	\$ 3,078,081
U.S. Government Securities	452,811	100,000	593,843	10,037,249	2,466,495
Securities Gtd. by U.S. G'vt	None	None	87,550	None	3,012,628
State and Municipal Sec. ....	176,890	314,495	347,814	1	2,105,863
Other Bonds	441,484	1,697,985	1,517,445	298,050	-0-
Loans and Discounts	691,125	1,537,913	1,471,384	2,987,623	7,673,056
Federal Reserve Bank Stock	7,500	16,500	18,000	30,000	45,000
Banking House and Fixtures	58,917	53,652	98,603	141,093	173,468
Other Assets	6,356	5,000	20,168	11,793	37,116
Total Assets	\$2,155,608	\$4,188,890	\$4,664,075	\$15,592,952	\$18,591,707
LIABILITIES					
Capital (Common)	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
Surplus	150,000	450,000	500,000	500,000	1,000,000
Undivided Profits	44,809	94,446	22,747	130,824	111,034
Reserves	-0-	8,245	-0-	-0-	-0-
Total Capital Accounts	294,809	652,691	622,747	1,130,824	1,611,034
Demand Deposits	740,542	646,013	1,085,639	5,818,019	7,380,372
U.S. Gov't Deposits	668	None	None	185,888	438,965
Time Deposits	1,012,143	2,790,186	2,929,921	8,342,818	8,913,728
Other Liabilities	107,446	100,000	25,768	115,403	247,608
Total Liabilities	\$2,155,608	\$4,188,890	\$4,664,075	\$15,592,952	\$18,591,707

The membership of the present Board of Directors, which has contributed largely to the bank's success, is as follows:

Samuel L. Bodine  
Philip J. Faherty, Jr.  
George R. Hanks

Floyd R. Hoffman  
William J. Kinnamon  
Edwin K. Large  
Edwin K. Large, Jr.  
George K. Large  
D. Howard Moreau  
John F. Schenk



Fleming Castle was built in 1756 by Samuel Fleming, innkeeper, for whom the town was named. Fleming's son-in-law was Colonel Lowrey and it is the D.A.R. Chapter named for this patriot which now owns the building. Prominent officers of Washington's Army were entertained here. The general may have been a guest of Fleming.

A basement room in this house, 119 Main Street, Flemington, served as the first office of "The Hunterdon Bank." The masonry vault with its iron door is still intact. It was secured by a curious device, an iron bar which was released from a secret trap-door in the floor of the room above. The house is now the residence of Edwin K. Large, Sr., a director of the Hunterdon County National Bank.





Residence of Charles Bartles (above), third president of Hunterdon's First Bank. This dwelling now stands on Park Avenue. Its original site was but two doors north of the original bank's location and nearly opposite the present main office of the Hunterdon County National Bank.

James Wilson Marshall, a native Hunterdon Countian and discoverer of gold in California in 1849, lived in this home (below) on Bridge Street, Lambertville, now the residence of the Sisters of Mercy of St. John's Church. Marshall's discovery brought a wave of prosperity to the nation and inspired establishment of new banks.





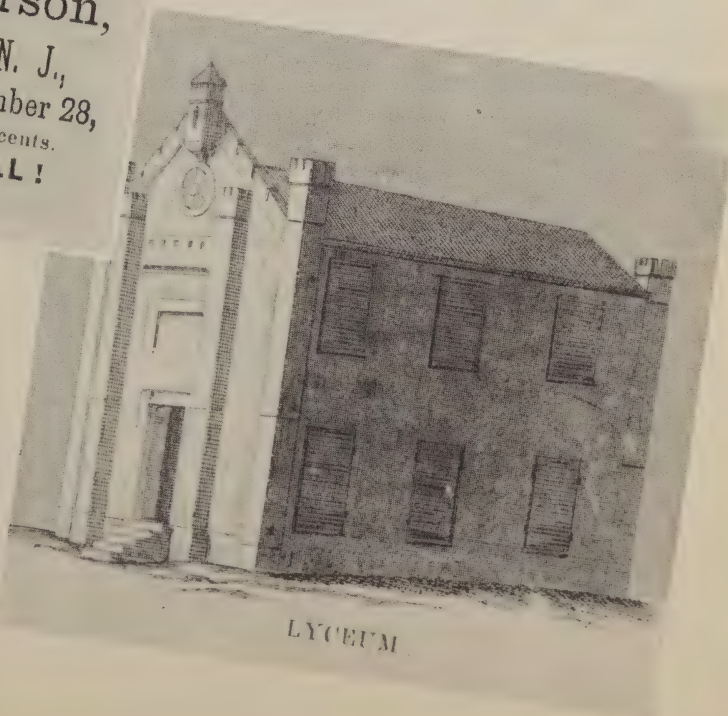
The DeMott Homestead, typical of farm dwellings of the past century, was built in 1847. Richard DeMott is shown with his wife, daughter and grand-daughter. Of sturdy construction and simple lines, dwellings like this are now much sought by newer residents of Hunterdon.

# THANKSGIVING NIGHT! GRAND CONCERT BY THE TREMAINE BROTHERS

AND  
**Mr. John G. Pierson,**  
At Masonic Hall---Flemington, N. J.,  
On Thanksgiving Night, November 28,  
1867. Tickets, 50 cents—Children, 25 cents.  
**COME ONE! CCME ALL!**  
Nov 20, 1867-21.

Thanksgiving Day was a new holiday when this announcement of an entertainment appeared in a county seat newspaper.

Flemington Lyceum (right) provided place for home-talent and professional dramatic productions and concerts. Among its sponsors were two of the founders of "The Hunterdon Advertiser." This building is now the





John C. Hopewell, who did more to promote Flemington as a residential and business town than any other citizen during the past century, built this Victorian mansion in Flemington. He was the fourth president of "The Hunterdon Bank."

Home of Mr. and Mrs. John K. Large Sr., Whitehouse Station, this residence (right) stood opposite the Reformed Church. It burned, together with the barn, many years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Large were grandparents of former Judge George K. Large, who has served as president of Hunterdon County National Bank longer than any other person.



The late John E. Bullock, long a director and eighth president of the Hunterdon County National Bank, formerly resided in this Flemington residence (left), recently converted into a dress shop.

The Opera House, Flemington, (below) was the scene of many gay parties and assemblies. View of the interior of this building on Bloomfield Avenue, 1895. Road shows and home talent productions were given here. Later it became a movie hall.



Hunterdon's towns prided themselves on their town bands, which played for parades and harvest homes and gave concerts on summer nights. Flemington's band, which dated back nearly a century, disbanded when many of its members joined the armed forces in World War II.

Firemen's Carnival Parade in the countyseat, about 1900.





Residence of Vice-Chancellor Abram VanFleet, Mine Street, Flemington (above) with carriage and team awaiting to take one of the county's distinguished citizens for appearance at a patriotic event.

"Go west young man," said Horace Greeley. William E. Emery, native son of Hunterdon, did go west to Kansas City, where he was a founder of Emery, Bird and Thayer, famous department store. He came back to retire and build "Rose Lawn" (below) which stands on the site of his birthplace in Flemington.





Flemington Woman's Club staged annual carnivals every summer on the site of the Public Park west of the Courthouse. Photo of the Carnival, about 1907.



Elias Vosseller and Asher Stryker, out for a holiday drive. Mr. Stryker made many of the finer photos shown in this book.



"Crazy Parade Attraction", former Mayor Arthur Foran driving an early-vintage model, well obscured by decorations.



Roller Coaster at Bellewood Park, Pattenburg, which was operated by Lehigh Valley Railroad as an amusement park until 1915.

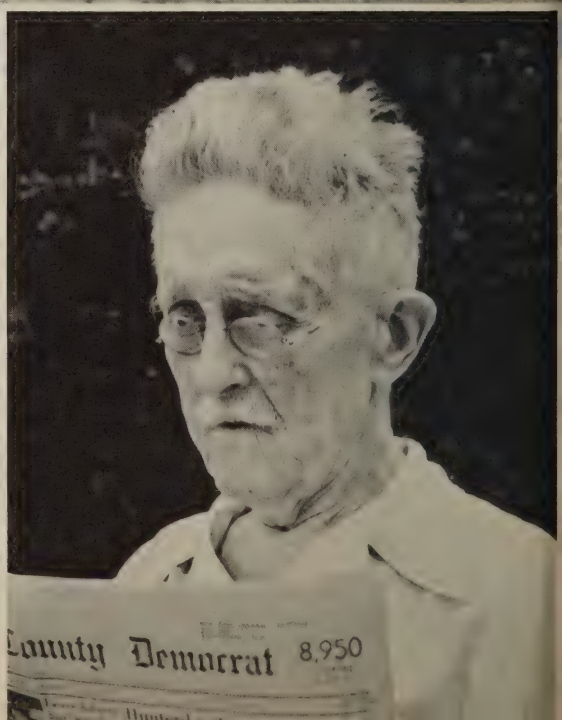


Youthful victims of polio receive expert care in the new Medical Center.



A new era in Hunterdon's social progress was marked by the opening of the Hunterdon Medical Center (above) in July 1953. The \$2,600,000 structure set a new high in county civic achievement. Hailed as the outstanding rural Medical Center of the nation, it is a source of pride to the thousands who joined in the great effort to make it possible.

Dr. Morris Leaver, country physician, (right) reads in his favorite newspaper about progress on the new Hunterdon Medical Center. In his long span of life, Dr. Leaver, who practiced at Quakertown, witnessed great changes in medicine.





The Baldwin residence, Stockton, (left) has this 11-foot fireplace, which appears much as it did when built in Colonial days.



Paul Whiteman, famous band leader, took over this sturdy farmhouse overlooking the Delaware, (above) and restored it into one of our county's finest rural residences. This view taken before the restoration.



Old Pickel Family Homestead at Whitehouse, typical of a first settler's home, was built of stone. It has since been razed. This photo taken about 1895.





The countryside is changing as "Hunterdon's First Bank" marks a century of service to farmers, business men, home owners. A modern "ranch type" dwelling under construction.

But young people are taking on the responsibilities of making homes and the obligations of parenthood and citizenship. Hunterdon offers a well-rounded social life and a bright future to its young people. The Hunterdon County National Bank has financed purchase of homes by many young families since World War II.

"It came upon the midnight clear"  
 . . . Flemington Children's Choir Choristers (below) sing carols at the community tree. They have sung carols to hail glad tidings of Christmas since 1895.





Flemington Presbyterians were worshipping in this building in 1854. It stood north of the present edifice and was built in 1794.



One of the earliest photographs of Flemington (above) made from the hill on Capner Street. It shows the white "meeting house" style Presbyterian Church which served the congregation from 1857 to 1883. Note the dirt road, the worm fences and the scattered residences.

Early settlers established churches as soon as they did their homes. In 1854 Flemington Baptist Church looked like this.



The Quaker Meeting House at Quakertown was the lone outpost in the county of men of that faith. It still stands but services are no longer held weekly.



Lambertville Presbyterians worshiped in the "Union Presbyterian Church" which was erected in 1817 but was removed to make room for the present edifice, dedicated January 11, 1855.



St. Thomas's in Alexandria Township was erected in 1768 by the Church of England. American patriots worshiped here and several Revolutionary soldiers lie along the walk leading to the half-opened door.



Tallest spire in Flemington, and a landmark visible for miles was that of Flemington Baptist church, which burned in a spectacular fire, January 1, 1926. Two years later the present church was dedicated.



The horse and wagon stand in front of a building which served Flemington's Methodist congregation many years. It is now a department store. The structure with white shutters was the Capner Building. It was razed to make way for the present Federal Post Office building.



A Baptist Assembly, photographed in the early '80's, showing costumes of the period.



Rock Methodist Church, near Mount Airy, is one of the oldest churches of that denomination in the state — also one of the quaintest.



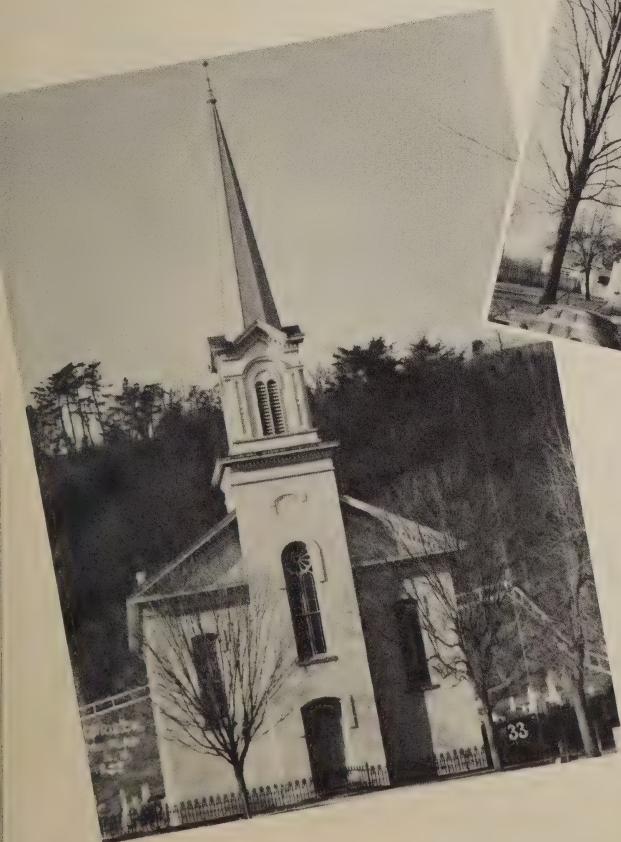
St. Magdalene's Roman Catholic Parish, Flemington, used this frame church from 1870 until the erection of their present edifice in 1941.





Flemington Children's Choir choristers with "Miss Bessie" Vosseller, one of the School's founders, after a rehearsal in the old Palace Theatre, Flemington.

Ringoes Presbyterians have worshipped in Kirkpatrick Memorial for many years. Its steeple was a victim of a hurricane in 1950.



Founded in 1827 the congregation of Milford Congregational Christian Church worshipped in this building until it was razed by fire. A new building stands on the same site.



One of Hunterdon's newest places of worship is the Jewish Community Center, Flemington, dedicated in 1948.



Flemington Episcopalians dedicate their new Parish Hall and church school building, 1954.



Early view of interior of Flemington Children's Choir Studio, where hundreds of children have been trained for service in the five choirs of the community. The school was founded in 1895. One of the founders, Miss Elizabeth Hopewell, is a granddaughter of a founder and early president of "Hunterdon's First Bank".

Octagonal school houses like this were in use in a number of the Hunterdon districts a century ago. When this one was replaced by a "modern" frame building in 1900, the new building was awarded a prize at Buffalo Exposition. This, too, has been abandoned.



Reading Academy, gift of Daniel K. Reading, was built in 1862, and served until 1915 as a public high school. It was the first public secondary school in the county.

Class at Reading Academy with Principal Pierce. The boy third from the left in the back row is Judiah Higgins, who like his father, Jonathan, and grandfather, Judiah, served as a director of the Hunterdon County National Bank.





Oak Grove school, at the Fairgrounds, near Flemington, (above) still looks like this. It was abandoned as a school when the Flemington-Raritan district built a consolidated school in 1948.



The Whitehouse Station public school (right), with two stories, was larger than most of the rural schools.



Built in 1811, the Amwell Academy at Ringoes was a private school of preparatory rank designed "to provide education advantages beyond those of the district schools." The building still stands but has not been used as a school for many years.

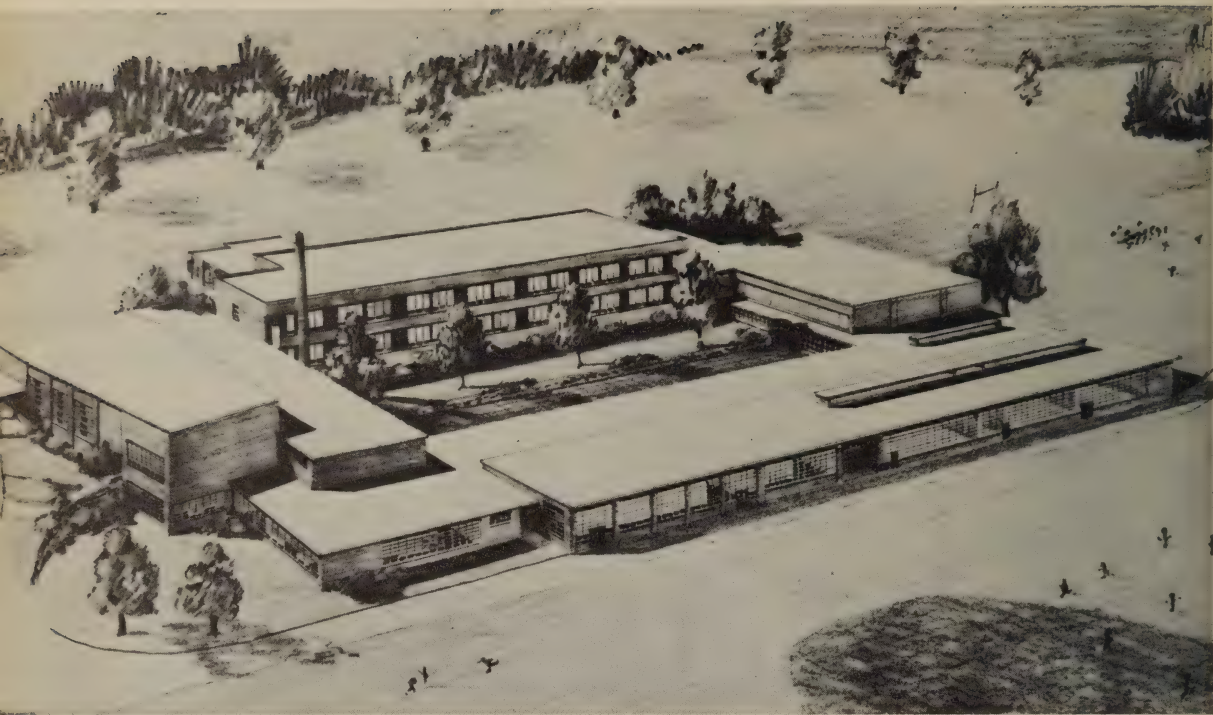


New teaching methods and better equipment made school more fun for these Flemington children of the early '30's. For real enjoyment tho, school could never compete with a circus.

Lambertville High School as it appeared in 1901.



In 1908 Flemington completed this 12-room Elementary School. It served until the disastrous fire of March 23, 1954 which completely destroyed the building.



Eleven North Hunterdon Districts made educational history by building a regional high school near Annandale. Here is the architect's conception (above) of a similar building to serve as a regional high school at Flemington.



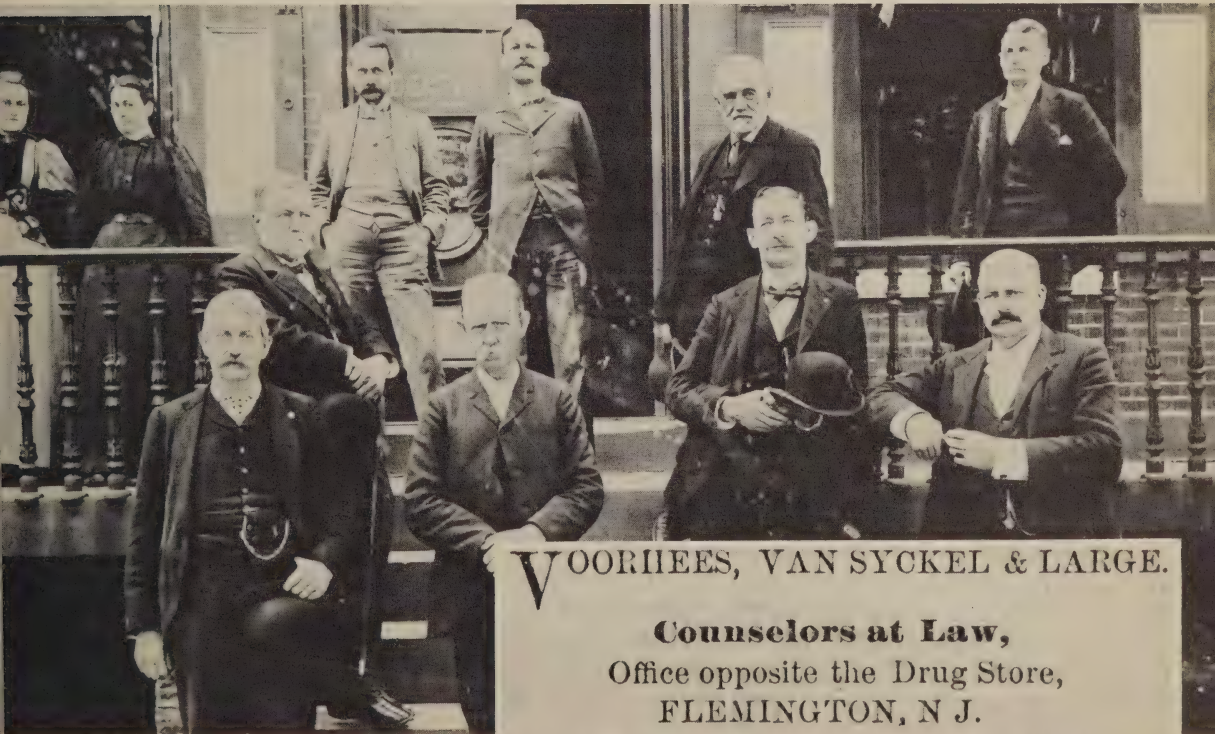
Hunterdon Central Regional Board (above) makes plans for merging the educational interests of five municipalities in building a new high school to open in 1956.

Hunterdon Courthouse in 1854, the year "Hunterdon's First Bank" was founded.



Hunterdon Board of Freeholders (above) early in the present century, when every municipality had a member and every member took his position very seriously.

County officials pose on the steps of the county office building before its renovation. Note that a dentist and a lawyer then occupied second floor offices.



**V**OORHEES, VAN SYCKEL & LARGE.

**Counselors at Law,**  
Office opposite the Drug Store,  
FLEMINGTON, N. J.

J. N. VOORHEES.

C. VAN SYCKEL.

GEO. H. LARGE.

July 6, 1875.

Business card of prominent law firm, 1875.



County buildings about 1905. A newsdealer served the public from the stand next to the sheriff's living quarters in the Court-house.



In the 90's Court-house Square was shaded by large elms which made it a pleasant place to meet friends and talk about public affairs.



William Jennings Bryan was greeted by a large audience at Milford in 1908 when he ran the third time for the presidency. He was defeated by William Howard Taft.



Flemington became a Borough by legislative act in 1910. In the center is Mayor A. C. Hulsizer flanked, left to right, by Councilmen Daniel MacPherson, William E. Corcoran, Charles V. Weiler and John Kunsman. Photo made in 1912.

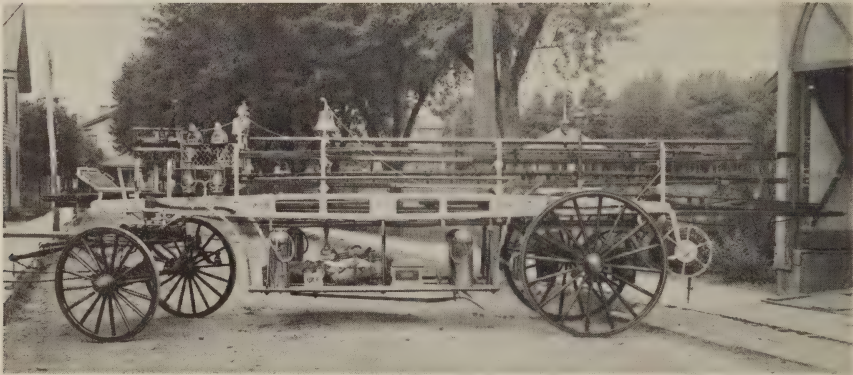


Governor's Day at Flemington Fair, 1930. Governor Morgan Larson is shown in the center. At his left is former Senator George H. Large, next to former Congressman Eaton, holding the leaflet, and former Senator David H. Agans. Other faces will be familiar to elder citizens.

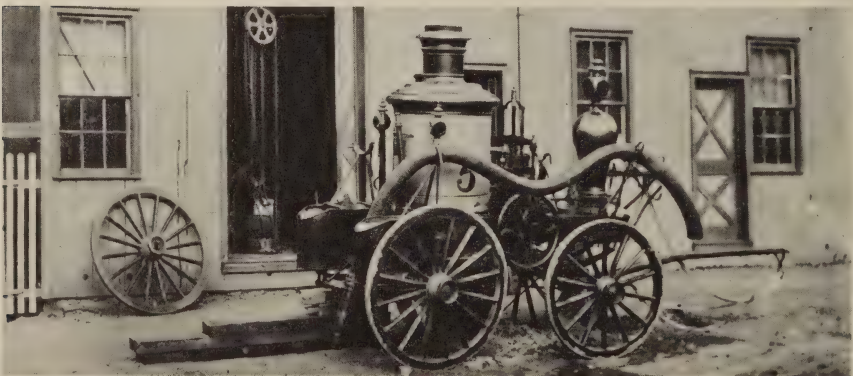
The John C. Hopewell engine, acquired in 1864 and named for a public spirited citizen who purchased it for Flemington. Mr. Hopewell was a director and was president of Hunterdon County National Bank from 1883 to 1888.



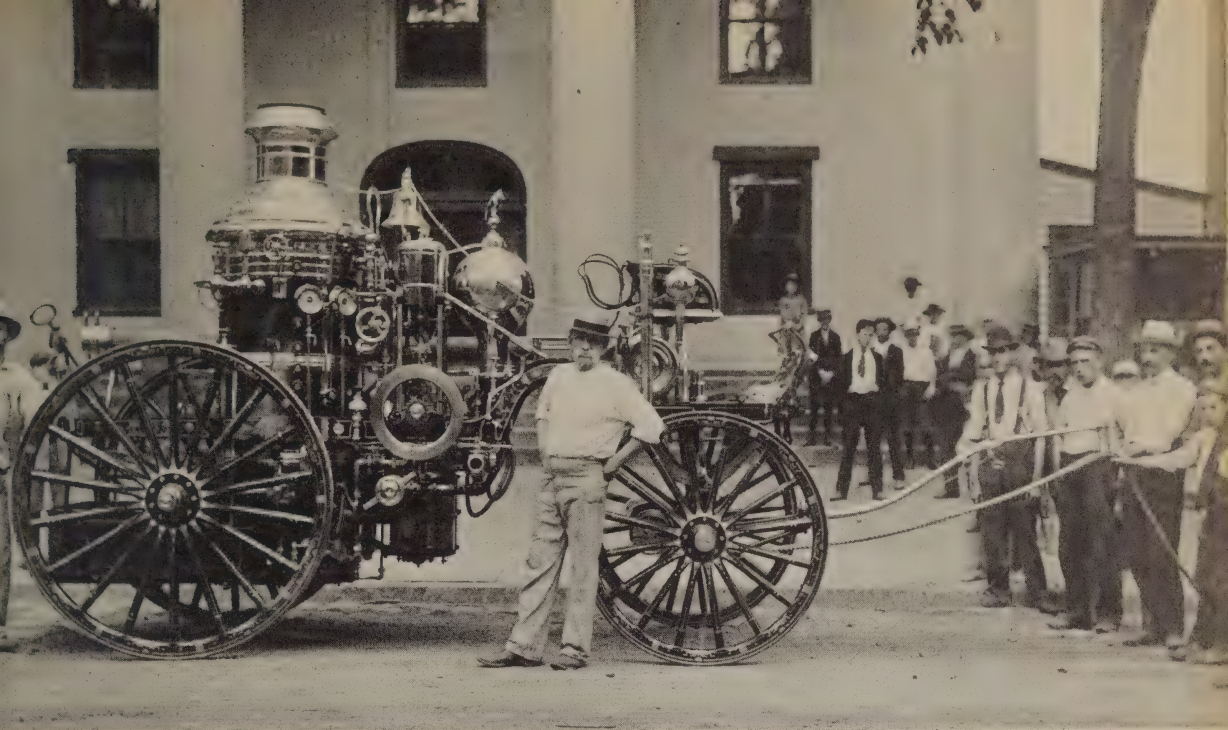
Flemington Firemen at P. R. R. station awaiting a train which was to take them to a parade. Old timers will recognize some of their former townsmen.



Flemington's hand-drawn hook and ladder near the old firehouse, which prior to 1925 stood on the site of the County Jail.



Hibernia Fire Company's steamer in front of L. T. Kugler's machine shop in Lambertville. This picture was made in 1898.



Flemington Firemen (above) proudly display their new steamer, which was displaced by gasoline powered equipment. Photo made about 1910.



Frenchtown still has its old steam pumper (above), stored away. It is already a museum piece.

Union Fire Company engine and house, Lambertville (below). The horses, driven by John Hunt, were only used when the fire was out of town. The volunteers used to draw the engine by hand when the fire was "in town."





L. H. Taylor Hose Company, High Bridge, has a completely new fire-house (above), one of the county's finest.



Stockton Borough's motor equipment protects not only that community but a large rural area as well. A century has seen great progress in fire protection.

Volunteer firemen now are well equipped to combat woods and brush fires.





Chemicals and booster tanks make it possible for rural firemen to save dwellings that a quarter century ago would have been a total loss.

Lambertville Firemen honor deceased comrades on Memorial Day. This custom of firemen paying tribute to departed comrades prevails throughout Hunterdon County.



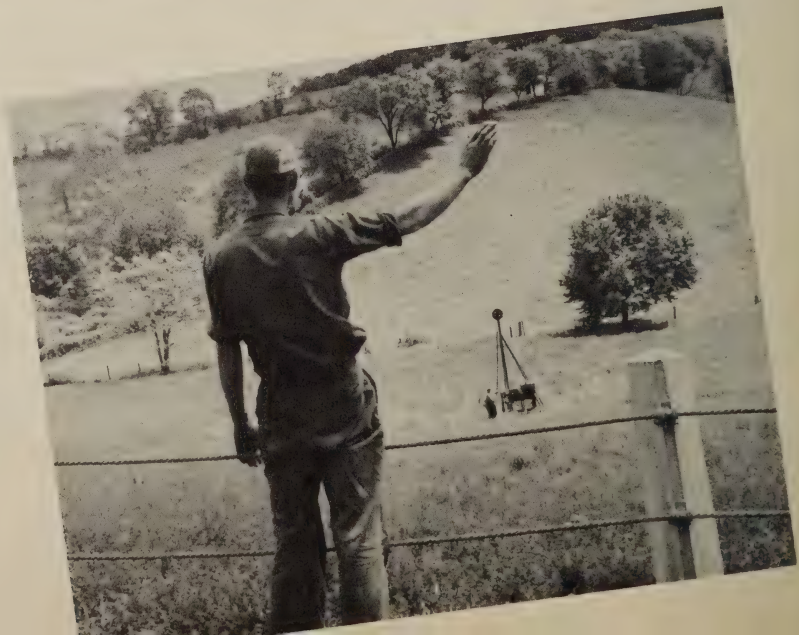


High Speed motor cars were unthought of in 1854, the year "Hunterdon's First Bank" opened. A great convenience, they are also a source of tragedy as this photo testifies.



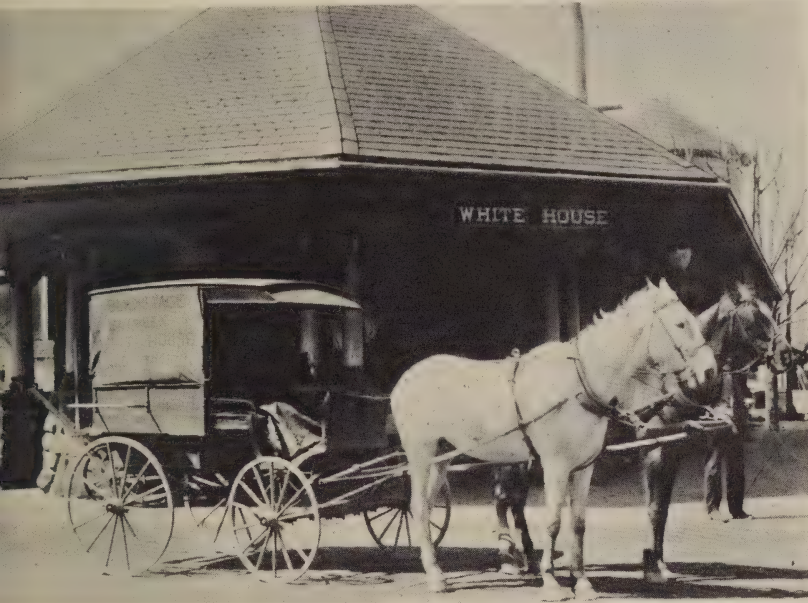
Volunteer Rescue Squads render service to individuals in cases of illness and accidents. Members are shown mapping plans for their new building.

Rural Hunterdon may lose some of its loveliest countryside to a gigantic reservoir which will supply North Jersey cities. Here engineers are shown surveying for the project in Round Valley.





Larison's Corner Tavern was built to serve patrons of the Swiftsure Stagecoach Line which ran between New York and Philadelphia. It also catered to drovers who brought cattle and sheep to market from Pennsylvania and the West. Photo made in 1932 before it was razed. It had, upstairs, a secret interior room where gamblers gathered.



By 1854, when "Hunterdon's First Bank" was founded, the Central Railroad had been built from Elizabeth to Easton. Bertsel Runyon used this stage between Whitehouse and Whitehouse Station as late as 1910.

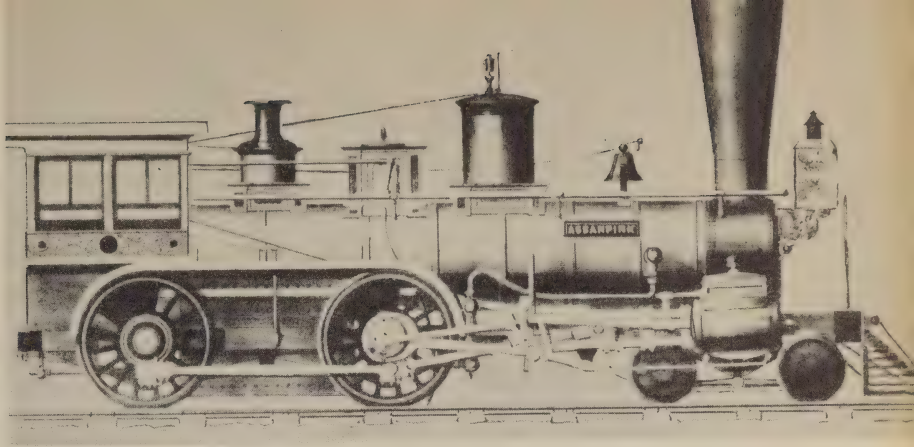
The County Hotel Livery Stable of Jacob Veit, Flemington, made transportation available to those who owned no horse and buggy. Photo made in 1897.





This little horse and cart was used to carry mail between Flemington and Whitehouse Station post office in 1890. Note the sun shade over the driver's seat.





The "Assanpink," an engine built in Trenton, 1860, for the Belvidere run. In 1854 Charles Bartles, later a president of the Hunterdon County National Bank, built the Flemington-Lambertville railroad.

Old York Road at the Ringoes intersection of the Pennington Road before the days of pavement on any of the country highways.



Famous "Frog War" scene near Hopewell where the existing railroad tried to prevent a rival from crossing its right of way by placing a locomotive where the competitor wanted to install a cross-over, or "frog." Artist shows P.R.R. train crashing into barricade.

Dr. C.S. Harris of Flemington, with his famous team of mares. "Doc" kept and loved his horses after all his townsmen in the county seat had turned to automobiles. Photo about 1930



Rockaway Valley locomotive, about 1890. The line, known as the "Rockaby Baby," operated from 1888 to 1914 between Whitehouse Station and Wotnog, near Morristown. It transported large shipments of peaches in season.

Busy day at the  
C. R. R. freight  
station, Fleming-  
ton, before time  
of motor trucks.



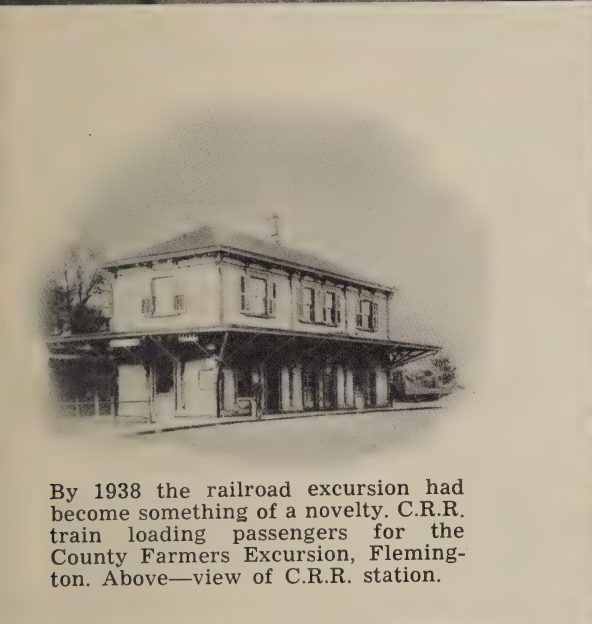
C.R.R. locomotive on the turntable at Flemington, 1895. The South Branch of the C.R.R. operated several trains daily to Somerville and New York until about 1926.



Lambertville was proud of its trolley service even though it had only a short piece of track running over the bridge to New Hope and Trenton. This was the only trolley line to penetrate Hunterdon. Photo made 1906.



C.R.R. Office, Flemington, 1895, with conductor John Sanderson, O. M. LaRue, agent, and clerks Hall and Rand. The town had three busy railroad offices in that day. Above P.R.R. station, Flemington.



By 1938 the railroad excursion had become something of a novelty. C.R.R. train loading passengers for the County Farmers Excursion, Flemington. Above—view of C.R.R. station.



Camel-back locomotive on the C.R.R., about 1899. These were powerful and fast. Above—L.V.R.R. station, Flemington.



Original L.V.R.R. tunnel under Musconetcong Mountain at West Portal. It was built in 1874 and abandoned for a larger tunnel in 1929.



Lehigh Valley's Flemington Junction Station, 1897 (right). Note the wood plank platform.

The Lehigh Valley's "Dinkey," or gas-rail car (below), displaced the steam locomotive in the '20's and served until 1951.





Lambertville entrance to covered bridge over Delaware prior to 1903 when the wooden covered span was washed away by a flood. It cost two cents to walk to Pennsylvania.



Wooden truss bridge at Whitehouse which carried all traffic on what is now U.S. 22. Building in background is Washington's headquarters house.

The "High Bridge" of the C.R.R. (below) which gave the town of High Bridge its name. The railroad later filled in with earth, leaving "The Arches" as the present underpass.





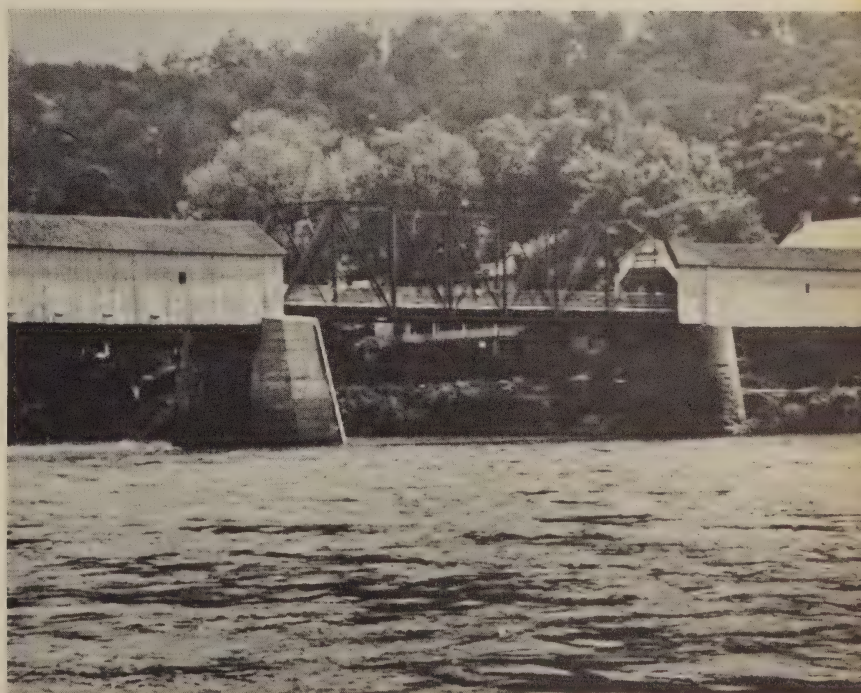
Early in the '30's big trucks were proving too much for even the steel spans built a few decades before. This bridge near Reaville on the Larison's Corner Road was crushed by a heavy load of fertilizer.





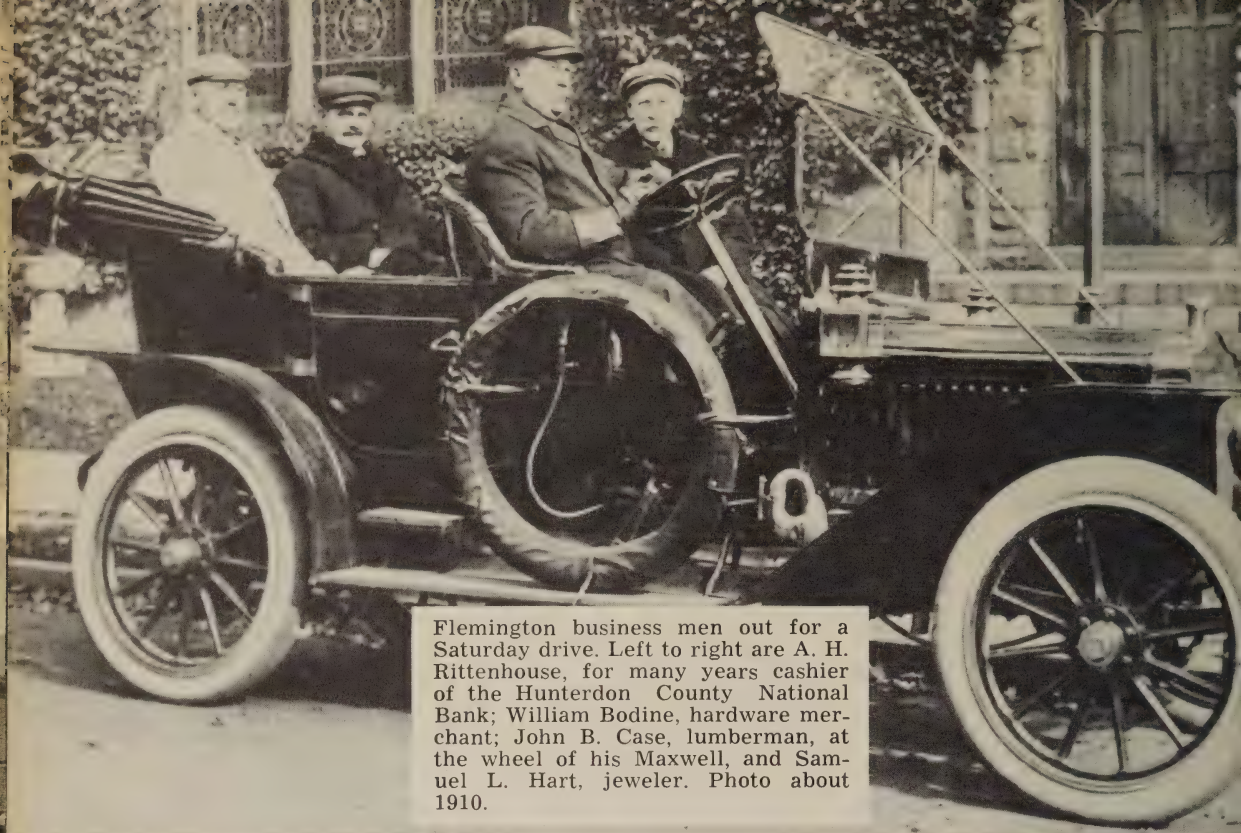
Last covered bridge in New Jersey (left) is at Green Sergeant's, Delaware Township, near Sergeantsville. It was preserved by the Board of Freeholders, responding to public sentiment.

Unloading heavy equipment for Perseverance Paper Mill from a barge on the Delaware and Raritan Canal feeder at Lambertville. This picture made in 1922. The mill later burned. Goat Hill is in the background.



Raven Rock Bridge with its one steel span, which replaced a wooden one early in the present century. The span gave way to a steel foot bridge a few years ago.

Entrance to the Milford covered bridge (left), showing the caretaker's house and the slat gate which was opened only after toll was paid.



Flemington business men out for a Saturday drive. Left to right are A. H. Rittenhouse, for many years cashier of the Hunterdon County National Bank; William Bodine, hardware merchant; John B. Case, lumberman, at the wheel of his Maxwell, and Samuel L. Hart, jeweler. Photo about 1910.



Out for a day of fishing (top left), at Higginville are O. M. LaRue, C. S. Alvater and William V. Ramsey. The car is a Reo 8 h. p.

By 1915 touring cars (lower left) had four doors. This photo, made at Whitehouse shows E. K. Large, Sr., a director of Hunterdon County National Bank, seated (right) on running board.

Flemington's first auto parade, 1910 (top right).

A gala day in Flemington (lower right) showing a horse and runabout and cars parked on wrong side of street in front of Lake's Hotel, now site of Post Office. About 1907.



In 1910 Bertsel Runyon, Whitehouse hackman, had this high-wheeled conveyance (top) in operation between Whitehouse and Whitehouse Station, where it met the trains.



Hunterdon County National Bank building, about 1918, before it was remodeled. The building was patterned after Ford's Theatre, Washington, D. C. The Bank had its office in the south end. Note Model T's and the tire store.



Lockhouse of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Feeder, Lambertville.

Flemington Garage was one of the first buildings erected for servicing of motor cars exclusively, at Bloomfield Avenue and Spring Street.



Nowadays automobiles are regarded as essential to living. The Hunterdon County National Bank annually finances purchase of hundreds of cars and trucks in a service which it pioneered in the county. Ice and snow still calls for manpower, as the photo shows.

A Hunterdon business man, Willis Carver, now (1954) uses his own plane on business trips and pleasure flights to Canada and the Pacific coast. A far cry from the stage-coach era of '54 when the Hunterdon County National Bank was founded.





The Blizzard of 1888 proved too much for Lehigh Valley's light locomotives which tried to ram thru the frozen drifts. Two crewmen lost their lives in this wreck.



In October 1903 the Delaware reached its highest flood stage sweeping away the Lambertville-New Hope Bridge, leaving only the crumbled piers. The present steel bridge replaced the wooden covered bridge.



Robert Schenck, lineman; Thomas Cunningham, railroad clerk, and Joseph Harris, line foreman, making inspection trip on a handcar to view twisted tracks of the Belvidere railroad left by the flood. Canal feeder (right) and river (left) were one stream. Photo made October 10, 1903.

A rowboat provided only access to some homes and business places in the 1903 flood at Lambertville.





Covered bridge and steel bridge were impassible because of high water at Three Bridges, 1900.

C.R.R. snow plow (below) at Flemington, following blizzard Feb. 16, 1899.





Flemington's Elementary School was swept away March 23, 1954 in one of that community's most costly fires.



Site of Hunterdon County National Bank's Whitehouse Station present office April 1, 1907 following disastrous fire.



Shoveling out the turntable after a blizzard at Flemington, Feb. 14, 1899.

Improvised ferry which was utilized for crossing the Delaware at Frenchtown after flood of 1903 took away covered bridge there. A cable and river current provided propulsion for the ferry.





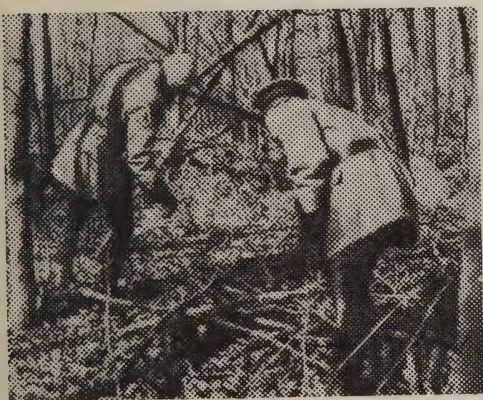
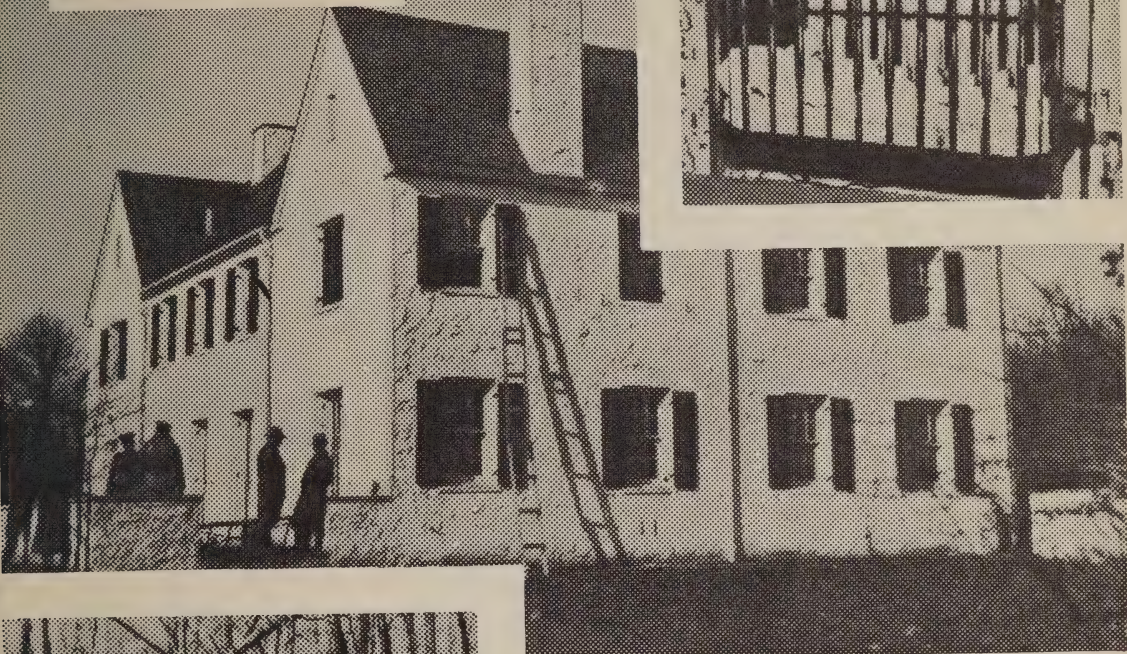
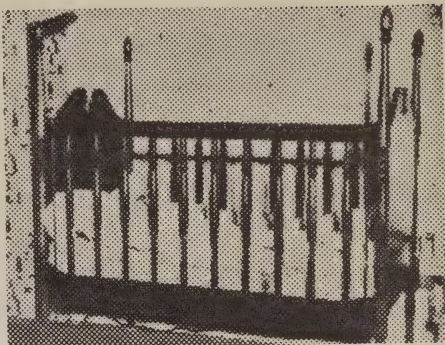
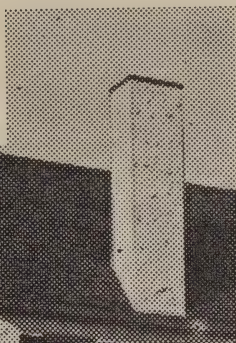
High water in Frenchtown, flood of 1903. Boats provided best means of transportation in the streets of the lower part of town.

"Hurricane Hazel" destroys a garage and automobile in Flemington, 1954, showing that nature still can produce irresistible forces.

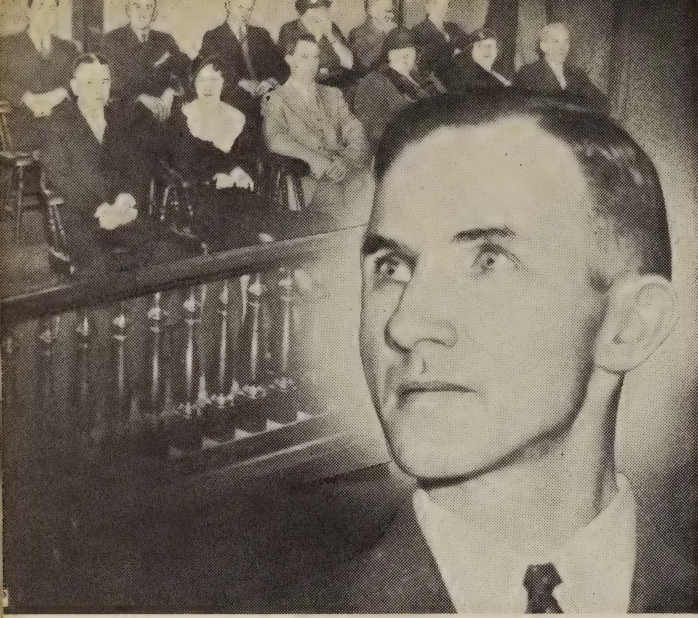




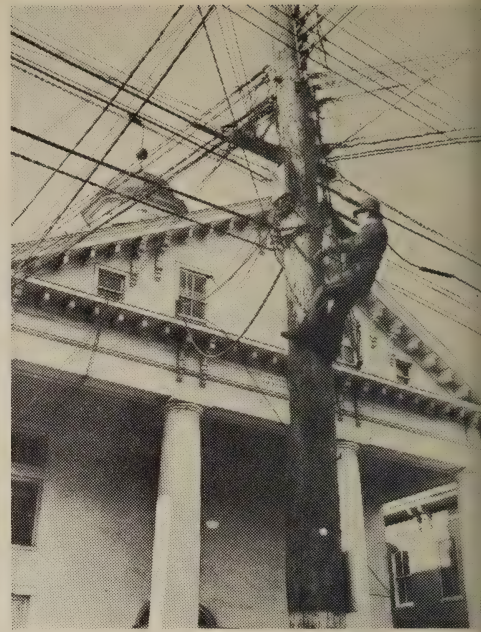
Charley Sutphin, Flemington clean-up man, whose superstitions, nurtured during childhood on Sourland Mountain inspired the story that Lindbergh would suffer a cruel fate in that region, long haunted by goblins and ghosts.



Composite showing Lindbergh home, the crib, the hunt by state troopers for the missing baby, and aerial view of scene after discovery of child's body.



Bruno Richard Hauptmann and the jury which convicted him in February, 1935, of murder of the Lindbergh baby. This case brought international notoriety to Hunterdon.



The Courthouse showing a maze of telephone and telegraph wires which took news of the century's most sensational criminal trial to the ends of the world.



The famous airman testifies about events on the March, 1932 night his namesake was stolen and killed. The trial brought crowds to Flemington. Hunterdon County National Bank opened accounts for and served many widely known writers and principals in the trial.

Night of the verdict. Showing defendant Hauptmann (arrow), Justice Trenchard on the bench and the jury as its foreman rendered a verdict of "guilty of first degree murder" with no recommendation for clemency.





Tradition has it that General Washington visited the Van Horn House, at Whitehouse (above) during the Revolution. This house, erected in 1757, still stands, altho greatly changed since this view was made.

Washington's Headquarters, Lamberville, (below). Letters and receipts signed by the general and issued to the owner, Richard Holcombe, establish the fact this nicely preserved old home was occupied by Washington.





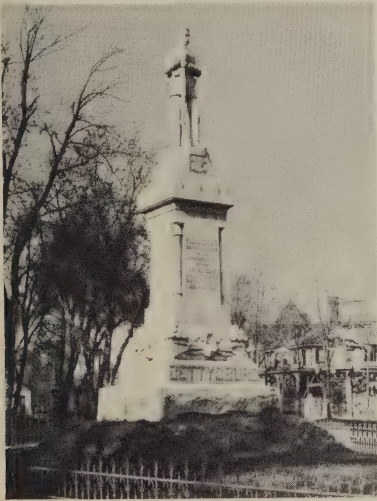
Lafayette House, Ringoes, has since had its exterior appearance changed, but it still stands, well-preserved. Letters written by General Lafayette show that he recuperated in this, the Landis House, during the Revolution.

Stone warehouse at Mount Airy, which was used to store supplies for Washington's Army in the Revolution. It stood on the Old York Road which connected Philadelphia and New York.





Many Hunterdon volunteers served under General Kearny in the Peninsula campaigns of '62. Artist's view shows the Jersey Brigade in action.



Flemington's Memorial to its heroes of the Civil War. It was unveiled in ceremonies attended by 5,000 people on Memorial Day, 1892.

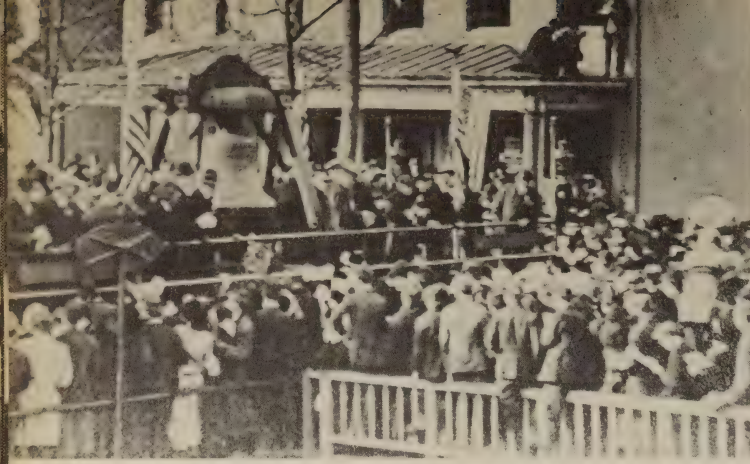
Hunterdon newspapers carried much news of the Civil War, which broke out seven years after "Hunterdon's First Bank" was founded. A clipping from Hunterdon Democrat.

## WAR NEWS.

THURSDAY, Oct. 17.

Secretary Seward has issued a circular to the Governors of States bordering on the ocean or lake coasts, stating that in view of the attempts being made by the rebels to embroil the federal government with foreign nations, it is desirable that the coast and lake defenses should be put into effective condition. He suggests that the work should be undertaken by States individually, in consultation with the federal government, and that the expenses should be ultimately refunded by the nation.

The rebel battery recently discovered at Shipping Point, opened its guns on the Pawnee on Tuesday, throwing twenty or thirty shot toward her, but without any injury to the vessel. A stand of colors was yesterday presented to the Second N. Y. Zouaves by a deputation from the firemen of that city.—A new military department, consisting of the State of New York, with Gov. Morgan as commander, was created yesterday. The government has information that a rebel force of about 30,000 has been dispatched to the vicinity of Aquia Creek, under an impression that a naval expedition was intended to land a large invading force on the Potomac. Picket firing was very active all along the lines yesterday.



Liberty Bell comes to Lambertville on its way home to Philadelphia from the San Francisco Fair, November 25, 1915. It is mounted on a railroad flatcar.



Men of Flemington who attended "welcome home" ceremonies in the county-seat after World War I. Many of these men have since passed to their reward.

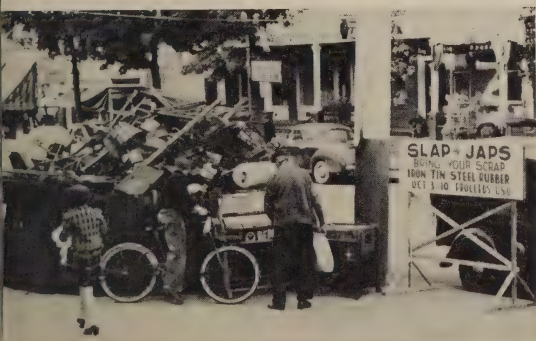


Mayor Samuel Stothoff of Flemington addresses veterans and their friends in welcome home ceremonies after World War I in 1919.

On the home front citizens volunteered for "air watch" duty. The observation post on Cherryville Road, Raritan Township, with its observer crew.



The year 1941 saw America engaged in World War II. Here is shown a Lehigh Valley train carrying inductees of the local draft district off for service. Many did not return.



Meanwhile iron, paper, aluminum and rubber salvage drives were conducted. Flemington's scrap pile, 1943.



Riegel Paper Corporation wins the Minute Man flag for sale of War Bonds to employees. George K. Large, president of the Hunterdon County National Bank, headed the County War Bond Committee throughout the war.



Flemington Post, American Legion, donates its two World War I German mortars to the scrap campaign—to be used—against Hitler's armies.



Hardly was the war with Japan over when there were ominous rumblings of trouble with Russia. Hunterdon's National Guard Tank Company acquired these huge modern fighting weapons and a new building.

And the draft continued—this time as preparedness against the possibility that Communism would engulf the free nations. Seven selectees shove off for two years of training, 1954.

Victory in Japan brought jubilation in every community. Local newspaper headlines announcing victory.



# Hunterdon County Democrat

16 PAGES  
6,675 COPIES

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VOL. CXXI, No. 9

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FLEMINGTON, NEW JERSEY, THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1945

MEMBER OF ASSOCIATED PRESS

TO A COPY  
\$2.00 A YEAR



**Police Regulation Is Extended; May Affect The Fair**

Several Hunterdon municipalities seek followed Flemington's example of barring children under from public places as a precaution against the spread of influenza virus. One of the municipalities adopt the regulation recommended by the National Foundation for the Fair. The Flemington fair grounds are that township and indications that the ban will have considerable effect on this year's fair which is August 28 and close Sept 3. The fair has been designated as a "Club Fair" and it will be closed to the public. Emergency regulation is in effect until Sept 1 and it may be extended at any time.

**Expires In Army Hospital**



**Lt. O. B. Lamason Dies In Louisiana**

**Conversion Not Expected To Hit Hunterdon Hard**

More Industrialized Areas Will Feel Full Effects Of Lay-Offs.  
Hunterdon probably will not feel the effect of the anticipated post-war drop in employment as much as the state's more industrialized counties.  
Most likely to be affected by any drastic lay-offs are the Hunterdon residents who have been working in war plants in other counties. As for the men and women employed at the supply depot at South Somerville and Belle Mead, it appears likely that many of them may be kept on for a considerable period to handle the vast quantities of material likely to be returned there for storage.  
Of the larger industries within the county, the Hugel Paper Corporation at Milford seemed likely to continue normal operations for a while it has had many war orders. It is especially a producer of boxes.

**The War's End Brought Her Supreme Happiness**



## Flemington's Celebration Of Victory Is Loud, Long

**New Principal Says Hiring 3 Teachers His Hardest Task**

**Dr. Robert M. Wayman Arrives To Take Over His Duties At High School**

Dr. Robert M. Wayman, new principal of Flemington High School, arrived in Flemington Sunday and this week commenced the task of familiarizing himself with his duties.  
Chief of the problems facing him, Dr. Wayman said, was the shortage of teachers.

**New H. S. Principal**



**Noisy Auto Parade, As Was As Fireworks, Music and Paper "Storm" Feature Observance Of The Allied Triumph**

Flemington celebrated the end of World War Two with what was certainly the loudest, and probably the longest, demonstration of joy in the history of the town.  
Even while the official news of Japan's surrender still was being broadcast a few minutes after 1 p.m. Tuesday, automobile horns were sounded and firecrackers were exploded.  
Factory whistles and church bells joined in almost immediately for history there was a continuous sound of celebration.

## One Cent Reward.

Ran away from the subscriber, in Bethlehem township, on the 12th of November inst., Green Hummer, an indentured apprentice to the farming business. He is a light built boy, with dark hair—aged about 20 years. All persons are forbid harboring or trusting him on my account as I will pay no debts of his contracting. The above reward will be paid for his return to me.

JOHN S. SHAFER.

Ferryville, N. J., Nov. 20, 1867-4t\*



## *Horse Clipping!*

**H**ORSES CLIPPED in a thorough and first-class manner, and at very reasonable prices. Apply at the Union Hotel Stables, in Flemington.



HOFFMAN BROTHERS.

Oct. 14-2m.

Custom horse clipping was already available in 1866 when this advertisement (bottom) appeared.

Hunterdon rural scene (center) in the days of dirt roads and worm fences.

The apprentice system still prevailed in 1867 when this notice (top) appeared in Hunterdon County Democrat.



# FLEMINGTON

## VIGILANT SOCIETY,

### FOR THE DETECTION OF THIEVES.

#### LIST OF MEMBERS.

**ISAAC G. FARLEE, President.**

John H. Capner,  
Abraham T. Williamson,  
Isaac Lowe,  
Jesse H. Landis,  
William Bishop,  
Judiah Higgins,  
Samuel M. Higgins,  
Cornelius Wyckoff, Jr.  
William Fisher, Jr.  
Mahlon C. Hart,  
Nathaniel G. Mattison,  
L. P. & Wm. B. Kuhl,  
Andrew Hoagland,  
Emery & Readings,  
Jonas Sutton,

Thomas Hill,  
Samuel D. Stryker,  
Jacob Williamson,  
Peter P. Quick,  
William R. Prall,  
John R. Young,  
Peter I. Clark,  
James Fisher,  
Asher Hill,  
Jacob Rockafellow,  
Robert K. Reading,  
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Thatcher Prall,  
John P. Blackwell,  
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**SAMUEL HILL, Secretary.**

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Albert S. Cox,  
Joseph Van Marter,  
Jesse Higgins,  
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Charles Bartles,  
Adams C. Davis,  
Asa Jones,  
Edmund Durham,  
Henry Disborough,  
Dr. John F. Schenck,  
Hiram Deats,

Henry M. Kline,  
Thomas Cherry,  
Joseph Reading,  
Daniel R. Reading,  
George Trimmer,  
Alexander Wurts,  
Hugh Capner,  
Peter I. Lowe,  
Jacob W. Schenck,  
William H. Sloan,  
William P. Emery,  
Henry S. Stryker,  
Richard Emmons,  
William R. Risler,  
Isaac Prall.

J. S. Brown, Printer, Flemington, N. Jan 1840.

Vigilant societies were set up early in the last century to deal with horse thieves. A substantial share of the farmer members of this society were among those who founded Hunterdon's First Bank, as "a safe place of deposit."

Members of Flemington Vigilant Society. Jonathan Higgins, seated second from left, was at the time president of the Hunterdon County National Bank. At his left is H. E. Deats.

Pittstown yard of the Lehigh Valley Railroad (right) during height of the peach season, 1897. About 20 cars are being readied for shipment.





Deats cultivator, patented in 1873, was a popular tillage tool.

The famous Deats Plow, patented in 1828 by the father of H. E. Deats was a big factor in expansion of Hunterdon's productivity and was in wide use a century ago. This plow is in the agricultural museum at Rutgers University.





Flemington Peach Exchange in the P.R.R. yard about 1895. Loads were driven past platform and sold to top bidder. Peach wagons sometimes backed up a mile from the Exchange.



Thomas's Mill, Milford, produced flour and feeds for generations of farmers in the Delaware Valley.



The Steam Mill, Flemington, was among the first to use steam in place of water power. Its Pride of Flemington flour was widely sold.



When peaches lost out as a crop, with the advent of San Jose scale early in the century, farmers enlarged dairy herds and built creameries like this one to buy their milk.



Peach basket factory at Pittstown (above). Note the large poplar logs from which were made the slats. They came from nearby forests.

Private operators like the Durling Creamery at Whitehouse (right) also made a convenient outlet for milk.



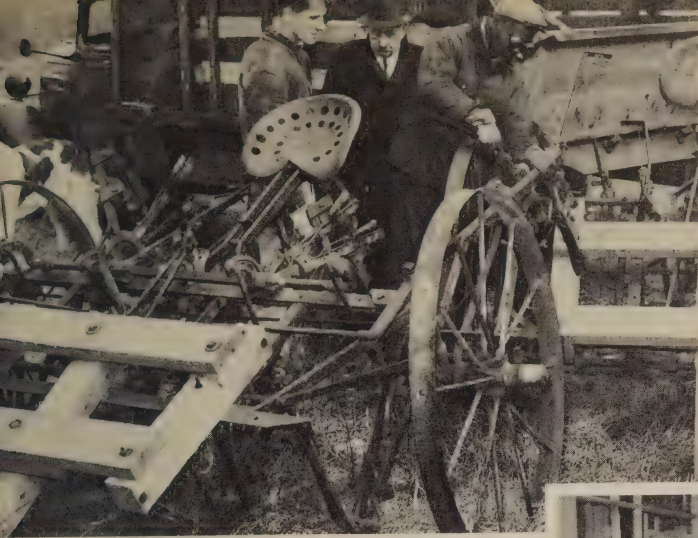


County Board of Agriculture Executive Committee (1938). This group (left) of progressive farmers supplied leadership for the awakening of the county's agriculture after a County Agricultural Agent was employed in 1927. Some are still serving (1954).

When Hunterdon acquired an Egg Laying Contest this group (right) of poultrymen turned in to lend a hand. Photo made in 1932. In the lower row right is E. A. Gauntt, Hunterdon's first County Agent.



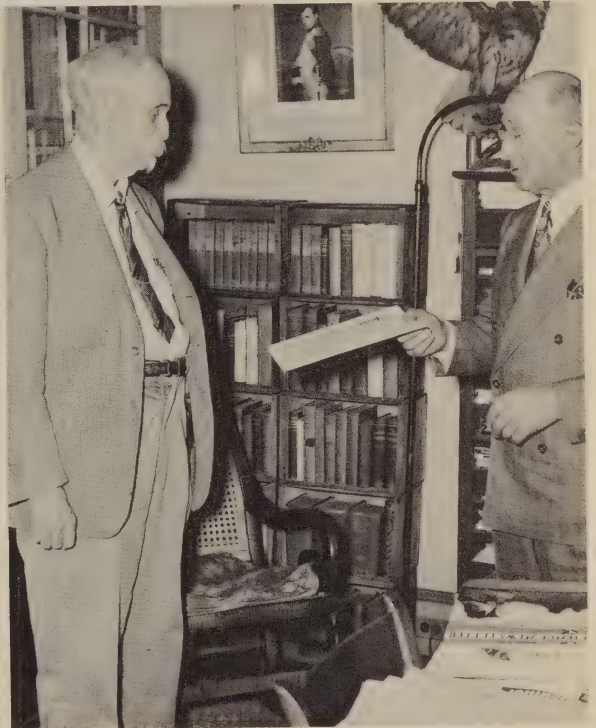
David H. Agans, veteran Grange official and farm leader shown (left) with Mrs. Agans and Andrew Cray, Board of Agriculture membership chairman, at annual board dinner at Quakertown.



Farmers not only produced record-breaking crops to help win World War II. They helped in the salvage drives. Shown are (left) Robert B. Crane, Pittstown, Joseph Finkle (center), venerable Lambertville scrap metals dealer.

Hiram Edmund Deats, farmer and county historian, receives in 1951 a certificate of award for his lifetime interest in promoting agriculture of Hunterdon from the Board of Agriculture. Clifford E. Snyder, of Pittstown, long the president of that body, makes the presentation (below).

R.F.D. mail service came early in the century. H. B. Everitt is shown receiving his daily paper (about 1940). Sign near box carries rural fire protection block number.



Hunterdon had the first artificial cattle breeding project in America. The Association's plant near Clinton.



Auction Market staff (left) soon after the Cooperative moved to the former Empire Cut Glass works building in Flemington.

Original directors (right) of Flemington Auction Market Cooperative Association, formed in 1930 and first of its kind in the nation. Left to right are E. A. Gauntt, county agent; William Grossman, Charles Cane, James Weisel, Wilmer Lawrence. Back row: Wallace Suydam, Newton Gottshall, E. P. Nief, Theodore Apgar, Clayton Stains, auction master, and A. E. Jones of the Bureau of Markets, N.J. Department of Agriculture.



Inspecting eggs consigned to the Auction Market. Success of the Auction has been due to strict adherence to official grades.



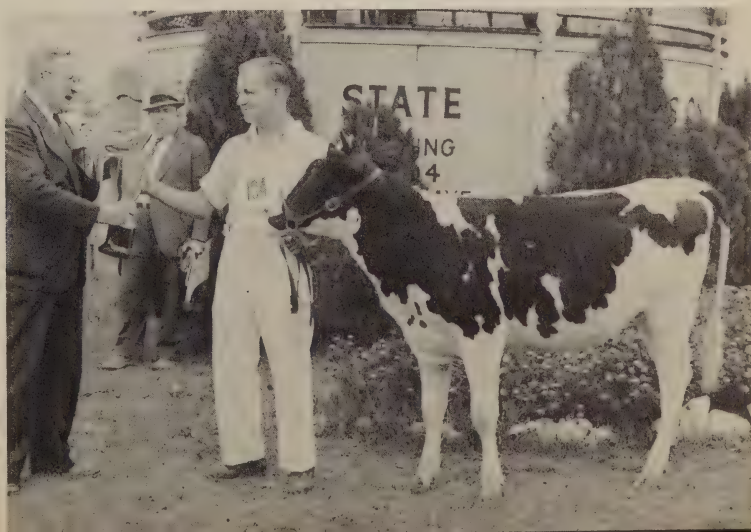


Aerial view of Flemington Auction Market, with the Dairymen's League Creamery and the G.L.F. feed mill in the right foreground. Taken about 1950.



By 1942 harness and wagons were hard to dispose of at farm auctions like this one conducted by Herbert VanPelt near Milford.

State Grange Master Agans presents 4-H trophy to a member at the 1940 Flemington Fair.





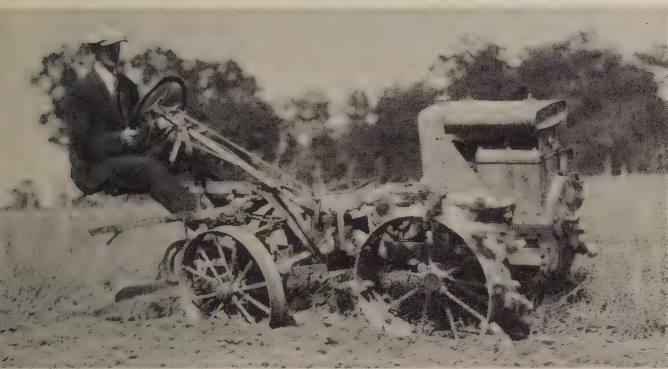
By the late 1940's horse-drawn field equipment, even for planting corn, was becoming scarce.

A tractor-drawn tree planter was bought by Hunterdon County National Bank and made available to farmers free of charge for planting forest seedlings on idle land. Hundreds of acres have been reforested by this machine.





Prize-winning Grange exhibit at Flemington Fair. A popular feature showing the wide range of the County's farm products.



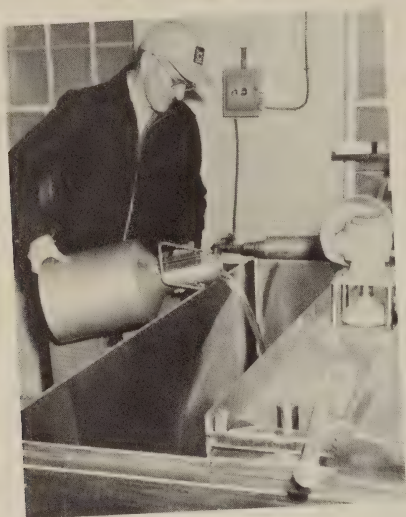
Tractors were still in the experimental stage in 1927 when this demonstration (above) was given at the Rutgers field day.

Hunterdon County National Bank promoted and paid for a number of demonstration projects including this tractor mounted rye grass seeder. This device has become very popular with farmers.





Witnessing demonstration of bulk handling of feed, eliminating costly bags and much labor, at farm of Mrs. R. B. Crane, Pittstown.



County Superintendent of Weights and Measures tests accuracy of device used for measuring volume of milk delivered to tank wagon, thus eliminating milk cans (1954). Hunterdon Agriculture marches on.

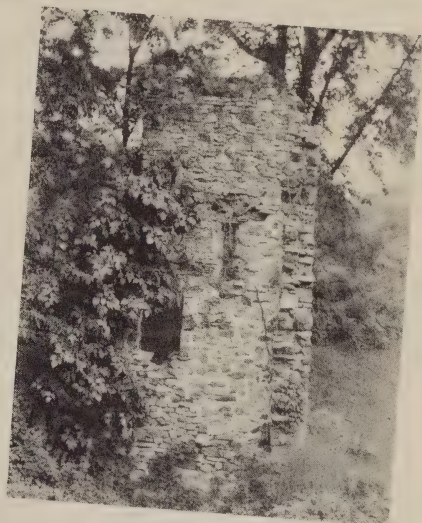
Farmers take a day off to see something different—the view from excursion boat near West Point on the Hudson River.





Stockton Spoke Works, showing raw material, which was hickory wood. Much of this was floated down the Delaware from the Pennsylvania forests.

Ruins of old Union Iron Furnace on the Exton Farm (right) at the Union in 1938. Here iron was made for Washington's Army.



Making spokes (below) became an important industry of the river towns of Lambertville and Stockton late in the past century. Workman in the foreground in Lambertville Spoke Works is Harry J. Shepherd, father of Mayor Shepherd of Lambertville.





Foran Foundry, Flemington, early in the century when it was already giving steady employment to many skilled workmen.



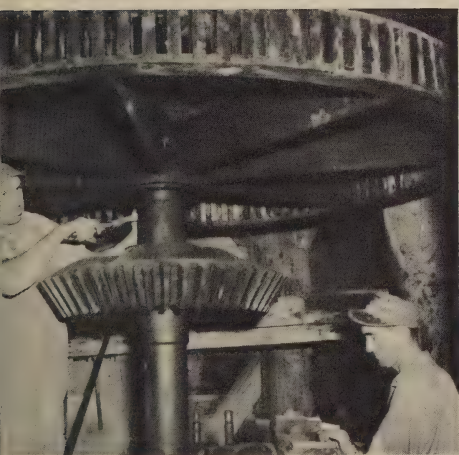
Flemington built Empire Cut Glass Factory for the company in 1902 and thereby launched a prosperous industry which still flourishes in the town.



Whitehouse, too, had its wheel factory established in 1877 by J. Vandervoort. The huge 10-foot wheels were used to haul logs out of Georgia swamp-forests.

# SUBSCRIBERS TO THE FUND FOR THE ERECTION OF THE EMPIRE CUT GLASS FACTORY

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ig gears of the mill near Clinton,  
ow residence of L. B. Wescott of  
ulhocaway Farms. Milling was long  
n important Hunterdon industry.

Subscription list of men and women who  
subscribed funds to build the first cut glass  
plant in Flemington in 1902. The plant is  
now owned by Flemington Auction Market.  
Officers and directors of the Hunterdon  
County National Bank figured prominently  
in this effort.

Flemington's  
"copper mines"  
were being ex-  
ploited in the  
'50's about the  
time Hunterdon  
County National  
Bank was found-  
ed. This building  
houses pumps of  
Flemington Water  
Department which  
bring water from  
the abandoned  
copper mine  
shafts. Little cop-  
per was taken  
out.

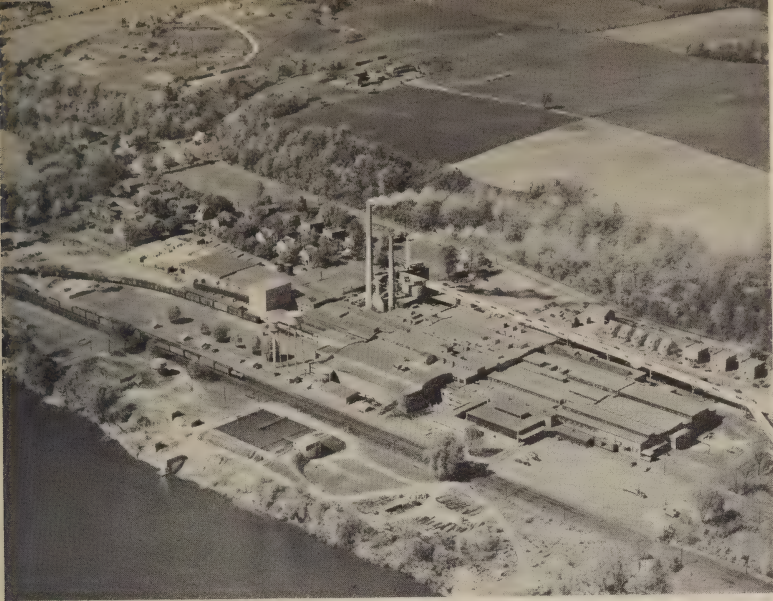




Workmen at Empire Cut Glass Company, Flemington. W. E. Corcoran, superintendent, stands at the far left. Glass cutters made good wages for the times.



Taylor-Wharton Iron & Steel Company, High Bridge, is America's oldest manufacturer of steel and iron. This company furnished ordnance for the Colonial armies.



Riegel Paper Corporation's Mill at Milford, is the largest of four in Hunterdon and Warren Counties. The company is the county's largest employer.

New industries are finding it profitable to locate in Hunterdon. Here is part of the Visking Corporation's new plastics plant (below) in Raritan Township.



Pipelines for transportation of oil were laid across Hunterdon a half-century ago. More recently new lines have been laid to bring natural gas from the fields in the Southwest. Here a big-inch gas line is being run under the Delaware River. Photo made in 1953.

Building new plant of Telerad Corporation (below) for manufacture of electronics equipment at Copper Hill, 1954.



A. V. Bonnell's hardware store, Flemington (right) as it appeared in 1854. Bonnell residence is at left. Court-house roof appears in background. Bonnell's store stood directly opposite present site of Hunterdon County National Bank's main office.



Residence of AV Bonnell AV Bonnell's Hardware Store



The Gibson House at Milford in its better days when it was popular as a hotel.

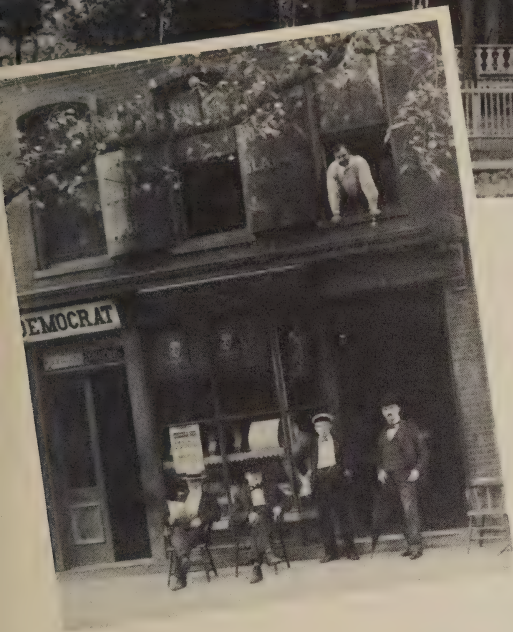
Nevius & Connet's staff in the 80's. Even the mannequin wearing the boy's suit got in the picture.



W. P. Emery's Store, Flemington, in 1854. This building is now the Flemington Armory.



John B. Davis's General Store, Whitehouse Station, as it appeared prior to 1900 when it was burned.



Hunterdon County Democrat's office, Flemington, with some of the elder statesmen passing the time of day in front of the old cigar store. The newspaper office was upstairs where a staff member poses in the window. The Democrat dates to 1825.

LIVERY, SALE AND EXCHANGE STABLES,



County House,  
FLEMINGTON, N J.,

The subscriber would inform his old customers, and the public in general, that he is now snugly fixed again, and having enlarged and otherwise improved his stock of HORSES and CARRIAGES, solicits a fair share of public patronage. ~~Respectfully~~ Thankful for past favors, I remain  
yours truly,  
JACOB VEITE!

County House Livery announcement  
(above) in 1867.



Staff of the Hunterdon County National Bank, about 1885. Notice sign of Temperance Reform Club over basement door.

Union Hotel, Flemington, with the stage coach which took guests to Whitehouse to take the New York train in 1854.



Lebanon Hotel was an important stopping place on the Easton-New Brunswick highway before the Jersey Central railroad was built.



The office, feed mill, coal and lumber yard of John K. Large, Whitehouse Station, stood on site of present Fields lumber yard. It was acquired by Large in 1848.



An 1890 lad who is already outgrowing his 1889 suit gets a lesson from Photographer Sunderlin of Flemington on where to get "Natural" pictures. It was Sunderlin who took many of the photos in this book.



Potts's Restaurant and Cooley's Drug Store, Flemington, May 30, 1891. Many an old-timer remembers Cooley's famous home-made ice cream.



Mount's County House with "Dutch" Tunison, the town fat man and hotel handyman, by the gas light.



Elwood Humphrey's coal yard (later Roche's), Flemington. Note the horse-drawn coal wagon.



Larison's Corner Store was typical of many a crossroads country store. Note how tree is protected from horses.



Vosseller Building, now Baker's, when it served also as a furniture emporium.

**Clinton! Clinton!!**



W. M. SHIPMAN would call the attention of buyers to one of the most attractive stocks of Goods ever offered by him since he has been in the trade, and one of the largest

A Clinton merchant used this picture (left) to call attention to his line of goods in a local newspaper in 1870.



Forker House, (above) which stood on land now occupied by Maple Avenue and the Public Library of Flemington. It was a novelty store at the time photo was made, prior to 1892.

Green's Drug Store (below) and Flemington National Bank. The building was renovated late in the 30's placing the drug store on the corner.





Lake's Hotel, Flemington, about 1900 when it was a popular eating place. The bar was in the basement. Site of the present Federal Post Office.



C. C. Smith's Grocery, with its permanent awning, will be remembered as one of the countyseat's leading food stores.



Deats Building, Flemington, (right) was long the site of the Flemington Post Office. The post office has been in the new Federal building since 1940.



F. W. Abrams, chairman of the board of Standard Oil Company, presides at a Standard Oil Company (N.J.) stockholders meeting. The Company, one of the world's largest corporations, keeps its New Jersey stock records at the Hunterdon County National Bank, Flemington.

Palace Theatre, Flemington, long used as a moving picture theatre was on the day this picture was taken the scene of Standard Oil Company (New Jersey) annual stockholders meeting, which brought hundreds to the countyseat each year from 1938 through 1950.



Busy Corner, now occupied by Green's Drug Store, as it appeared just prior to its renovation.

This independent country store at Kingwood carries hundreds of items never dreamed of by local storekeepers in 1854. Merchandising moves forward along with modern banking, as conducted at the four convenient offices of Hunterdon County National Bank in Flemington, High Bridge, Lambertville and Whitehouse.





Flemington Bicycle Club, 1890. The bicycle was then in vogue and these wheelmen took long rides. There was great agitation for bicycle paths and laws to protect wheelmen.



Baseball was not an established sport in Hunterdon in 1854, the year Hunterdon's First Bank was established. By the 80's, however, there were organized teams. This one (left) had fancy uniforms and just as fancy players. The coach standing in the rear was Elias Vosseller, who was also a church organist, merchant and local historian.



Flemington town football team, 1904. Front row, left to right: Russell Parker, Harry Bellis, Frank Green. Center row: George Berkaw, G. R. Parker, Arthur Foran, captain; Russell Pedrick, Harold Moore. Back row: Charlie Carmody, Howard Dilts, William Bohren, Holmes Jenkins, Frank Culver, Charlie Mount and Dorman Connet.



Flemington Athletic Field where, according to the legend on this picture Somerville "went down and out" 8-0. This field was near site of present Dural Rubber works.



Flemington baseball fans and players of yesteryear. Man in center, front row, is A. G. Muller, who served as team manager.



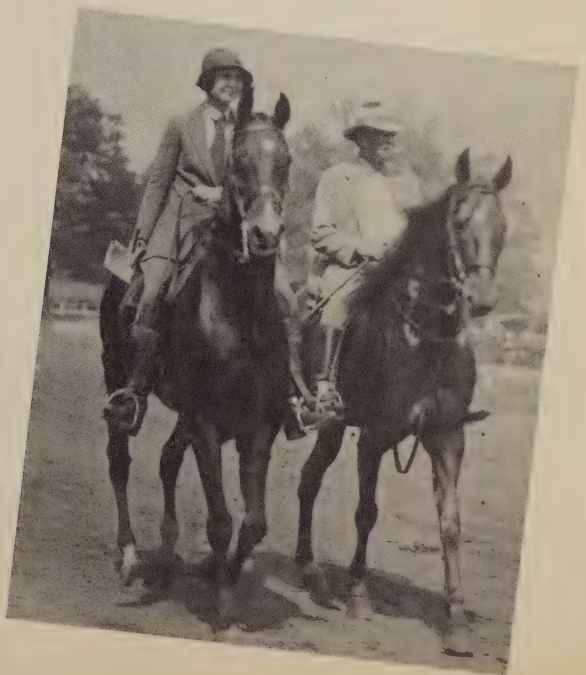
"Doc" Harris and a favorite horse in front of B. H. Pedrick's clothing store, Main Street, Flemington.



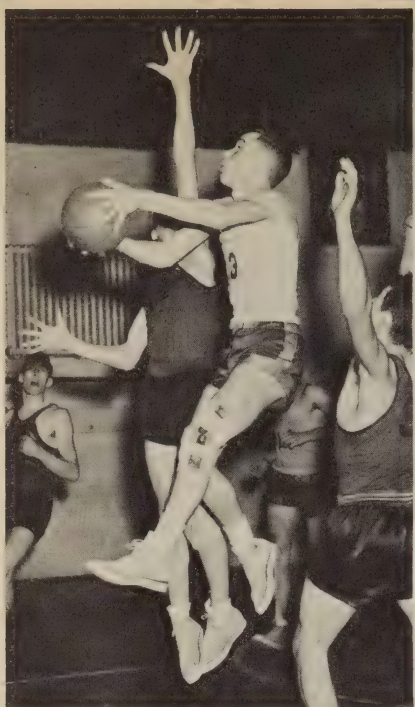
Tommie Berry, famous Hambeltonian driver, and Major E. B. Allen of Flemington Fair, discuss—guess what? Horses.



Milford Bicycle Club out for a Saturday spin, stop to have photo taken in front of the entrance to the old covered bridge at that place.



Natalie Harris Roden and Harry L. Stout, track marshals at Flemington Fair.



Trout fishing gained in popularity after the State started its stream-stocking program. Fishing scene on the South Branch River.

It takes tall school boys to play basketball, which by 1954 had surpassed all sports in popular appeal.



Baseball still fascinates most Americans, Hunterdon residents being no exception. Even Reaville has its Little League team. All work and no play is no longer possible in modern day Hunterdon, with its many activities for the coming generation.

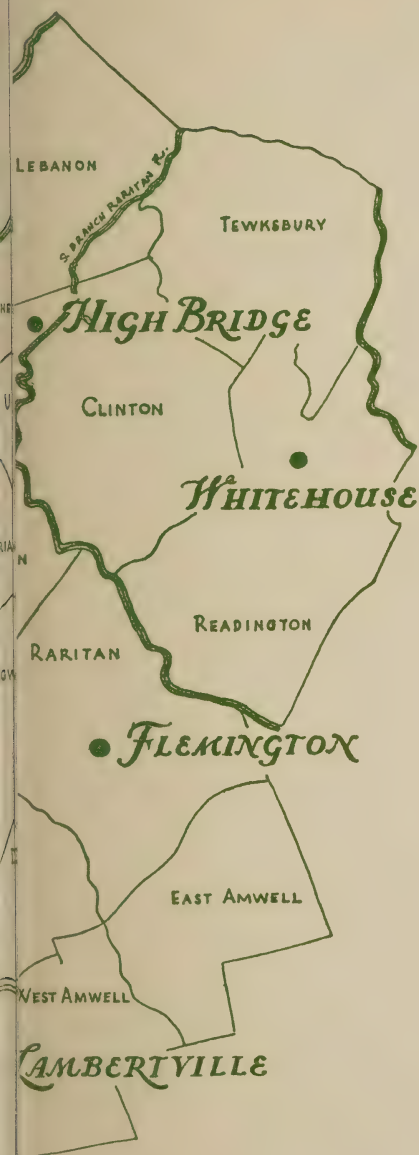




FLEMINGTON OFFICE



HIGH BRIDGE OFFICE



LAMBERTVILLE OFFICE



WHITEHOUSE OFFICE







11/9/2018

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HF GROUP - IN

